

December 20, 2021

Note: This meeting was in a hybrid format, with limited seating in the Council Chambers supplemented by teleconference for the public who could not attend.

Minutes of the public meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen held on December 20, 2021.

Mayor Jason F. Cilento called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Municipal Clerk William Robins read the Sunshine Statement and called the Roll.

Present: Jason Cilento, April Burke, Jessica Dunne, Richard Pinder, Trina Rios, Daniel Sigmon and Harold VanDermark

On the motion of Mrs. Rios and seconded by Mr. VanDermark it was moved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of December 6, 2021.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Pinder, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

On the motion of Dr. Dunne and seconded by Mr. Sigmon it was moved to accept the following:

12-20-2021: #1

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

The bills, as per the attached list, are hereby authorized for payment.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Pinder, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

On the motion of Mrs. Burke and seconded by Mr. Pinder it was moved to accept the following:

12-20-2021: #2

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

WHEREAS, Hurricane Ida wreaked widespread destruction resulting in significant property damage in the Borough of Dunellen; and

WHEREAS, replacing such damaged goods and items by residents and businesses is a costly process; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of government is to assist its citizens during their time of need; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 09-08-2021: #11, the Dunellen Borough Council resolved that fees attendant to Construction Office permits due to replacing of damaged items or repair/reconstruction of destroyed properties were to be waived until December 31, 2021, such determination to be at the sole discretion and professional judgment of the Construction Officer; and

WHEREAS, the effects of Hurricane Ida are still being experienced by Dunellen property owners and the state of the economy and personal circumstances have compromised the completion of repairs so that much work remains to be done.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen, that fees attendant to Construction Office permits due to replacing of damaged items or repair/reconstruction of destroyed properties are hereby again waived until March 31, 2022, such determination continuing to be done at the sole discretion and professional judgment of the Construction Officer.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Pinder, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

On the motion of Mrs. Burke and seconded by Mrs. Rios it was moved to accept the following:

12-20-2021: #3

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A SFY21 BODY-WORN CAMERA GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AWARD NUMBER 21-BWC-121

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey, Department of Law & Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General (OAG) received funds from the SFY21 Budget to administer the Body-Worn Camera Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Body-Worn Camera Grant Program is designed to provide eligible law enforcement agencies with State funding to aid in the purchase of body-worn cameras, ancillary equipment and storage; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen has been awarded a grant from the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General, U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the Grant Program is SFY21 Body-Worn Camera Grant, award number 21-

BWC-121, with an award period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the grant awarded from the State is \$38,722.00, with no local match required; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunellen is hereby authorized and does hereby accept the grant award for the purchase of body-worn cameras; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Dunellen that it hereby accepts the grant award in the amount of \$38,722.00 for the purchase of body-worn cameras for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Dunellen that the Mayor and Administrator are hereby authorized to execute the Award Contract with State and take any further action necessary for the acceptance of the grant award.

Dr. Dunne asked how much we received? Chief Smith responded that the grant covers about half the cost.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Pinder, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

On the motion of Dr. Dunne and seconded by Mrs. Rios it was moved to accept the following:

12-20-2021: #4

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

The voluntary resignation of Timothy Arch, Dunellen Municipal Prosecutor, is accepted, effective December 31, 2021.

Dr. Dunne asked the process for replacing the prosecutor? Mr. Bruder responded that a person interviewed and vetted would be presented to the Council on January 1, 2022 for hire.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Pinder, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

On the motion of Mr. Sigmon and seconded by Mrs. Rios it was moved to accept the following:

12-20-2021: #4-A

A RESOLUTION OF THE Governing Body OF THE Borough of Dunellen AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL ALL-HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

WHEREAS, Middlesex County, NJ has exposure to natural hazards that increase the risk to life, property, the environment and the County's economy; and

WHEREAS, pro-active mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property; and

WHEREAS a Multi-jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan has been developed by the County's Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS the Hazard Mitigation Plan assesses the risk and vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazards, develops a mitigation strategy including a prioritized list of mitigation actions including activities that, over time, will help minimize and reduce safety threats and damage to private and public property, and creates a plan for implementing, evaluating and revising this strategy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen:

1. The Borough of Dunellen adopts in its entirety, the Middlesex County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (the "HMP") as the jurisdiction's official Hazard Mitigation Plan; minor revisions to the HMP recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and/or the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management may be incorporated without further action.
2. The Borough of Dunellen resolves to execute the actions identified in the HMP that pertain to this jurisdiction, and municipal departments identified in the HMP are directed to pursue implementation of the recommended high-priority activities that are assigned to them.
3. The Borough of Dunellen will use the adopted and approved portions of the HMP to guide pre- and post-disaster mitigation of the hazards identified.
4. The Borough of Dunellen will coordinate the strategies identified in the HMP with other planning programs and mechanisms under its jurisdictional authority.
5. The Borough of Dunellen will continue its support of the Local Mitigation Planning Committee as described within the Plan.
6. The Borough of Dunellen will help to promote and support the mitigation successes of all participants in this Plan.
7. The Borough of Dunellen will incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of government and partner operations.
8. The Borough of Dunellen will provide an update of the Plan in conjunction with the County no less than every five years.

Mr. Mosley noted that the project is overseen by the Rutgers Bloustein School and that the entire county participates.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Pinder, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

CONSENT AGENDA:

On the motion of Mrs. Burke and seconded by Mr. Sigmon it was moved to accept the following:

12-20-2021: #5

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN,
NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

AUTHORIZE 2022 MUNICIPAL DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

That, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A.40A:4-19, the following appropriations for Interest and Debt Redemption charges for the year 2022 be and the same are hereby appropriated as follows:

Municipal Debt Service

Principal – Middlesex County Improvement Authority (2012)	\$199,764.75
Interest – Middlesex County Improvement Authority (2012)	5,992.94
Total	<u>\$205,757.69</u>
Principal – Middlesex County Improvement Authority (2017)	\$121,798.35
Principal – Middlesex County Improvement Authority (2017 Sewer)	21,049.80
Interest – Middlesex County Improvement Authority (2017)	33,953.73
Interest – Middlesex County Improvement Authority (2017 Sewer)	7,326.30
Total	<u>\$184,128.18</u>
NJ Environmental Infrastructure – Trust Loan	\$73,325.00
NJ Environmental Infrastructure – Fund Loan	49,275.36
Total	<u>\$122,600.36</u>
Bond Anticipation Note	\$184,400.00
Interest on Bond Anticipation Note	79,650.00
Special Emergency Note	55,600.00
Interest on Special Emergency Note	480.00
Interest on Taxable Special Emergency Note	885.00
Sewer Bond Anticipation Note	20,000.00
Interest on Sewer Note	10,350.00
Total	<u>\$351,365.00</u>
Grand Total	<u><u>\$863,851.23</u></u>

12-20-2021: #6

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

WHEREAS, the last Council meeting of the year 2021 is December 20, 2021, and

WHEREAS, the final payroll of 2021 and the first payroll of 2022 are December 30, 2021 and January 14, 2022, respectively and the last check run is December 31, 2021, and

WHEREAS, some payments are owing and due prior to the first regular meeting in 2022, and

WHEREAS, there is no subsequent Council meeting scheduled to approve the transfer of appropriations from surplus accounts to Salary and Wages and Other Expenses requiring additional funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN:

That the Borough CFO be and is hereby authorized and directed to transfer funds as needed such that all the accounts that are charged for the December 31, 2021 and January 14, 2022 payrolls, December 31, 2021 check run and all subsequent payments that are owed and due prior to the first regular meeting in January, 2022 are properly funded.

FURTHER RESOLVED that an itemized list of appropriation transfers be provided to the Mayor and Council members by the first regular meeting in January 2022.

12-20-2021: #7

SCHEDULE OF SCHOOL LEVY PAYMENTS

WHEREAS, it has been agreed to turn over to the Board of Education its total monthly allotment as close to the beginning of the month as is reasonable,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN:

That the Borough Treasurer be and she is hereby authorized and directed to draw checks and issue same to the Custodian of School Monies, in accordance with the following schedule:

Levy of \$6,616,872.00 from January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
January 10, 2022	1,042,154.00
February 7, 2022	1,224,128.00
March 7, 2022	1,042,154.00

April 4, 2022	1,042,154.00
May 2, 2022	1,224,128.00
June 6, 2022	<u>1,042,154.00</u>
Total	<u>\$6,616,872.00</u>

12-20-2021: #8

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue the following proceeds for tax sale redemption(s):

Payable to US BANK CST FOR ACT LIEN HOLDING

TSC	Block	Lot	Owner/Address	Principal	Interest	Premium	Total
21-13	60	25	BRESLIN, MICHAEL 622 CENTER ST	\$ 3452.37	\$	\$66,600.00	\$70,052.37

TOTAL REFUNDED \$ 70,052.37

12-20-2021: #9

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue the following proceeds for tax sale redemption(s):

Payable to FIG CUST FIGNJ19LLC & SEC PTY

TSC	Block	Lot	Owner/Address	Principal	Interest	Premium	Total
21-08	33	23	FRY, RICHARD C 400 NORTH AVE, UNIT C0206 5	\$ 463.76	\$	\$1,500.00	\$ 1963.76

TOTAL REFUNDED \$ 1,963.76

12-20-2021: #10

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue the following proceeds for tax sale redemption(s):

Payable to FIG CUST FIGNJ19LLC & SEC PTY

TSC	Block	Lot	Owner/Address	Principal	Interest	Premium	Total
20-37	78	26	MICHELLE SCHAFER 269 MAPLE AVE	\$ 175.00	\$ 2.29	\$.00	\$ 177.29

TOTAL REFUNDED \$ 177.29

12-20-21: #11

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Whereas, there appears to be a surplus in the following 2021 Operating Accounts over and above the demands to be necessary, and

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 provides for the transfer of unexpended balances in those appropriations having an excess over the amount required to those deemed to be insufficient.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the following “Transfer of Appropriations” be made:

Account	Title	Salaries & Wages	Other Expenses
20-110-001	Mayor & Council	\$1,000	
23-210-246	Other Insurance		\$4,000
25-240-101	Police	5,000	
31-461-299	Electric & Gas		10,000
	Subtotal	\$6,000	\$14,000

From		
	Total	<u>\$20,000</u>

Whereas, there appears to be insufficient funds in the following 2021 Operating Accounts over and above the demands to be necessary; viz:

To:

Account	Title	Salaries & Wages	Other Expenses
20-110-299	Mayor and Council		\$470
21-180-220	Planning Board		3,000
25-275-111	Municipal Prosecutor	\$500	
26-290-101	Road Repairs	3,000	
27-330-101	Board of Health	1,000	
28-370-101	Recreation Commission	1,000	
41-709-251	Municipal Alliance		530
42-305-299	Intergovernment – Middlesex Recycling		10,000
43-490-205	Municipal Court		500
	Subtotal	\$5,500	\$14,500
	Total	<u>\$20,000</u>	

12-20-2021: #12

CANCEL OUTSTANDING CHECKS

WHEREAS, there exists outstanding checks on the reconciliation of the Current and Payroll Funds, and

WHEREAS, these checks have been investigated and it has been determined that these checks should now be canceled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN:

That the following outstanding check(s) in the amount of \$2,818.59 be and are hereby canceled:

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>CHECK #</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>VENDOR</u>
Current	35131	\$468.60	10/21/19	Terri Albertson
	35580	1,840.00	2/18/20	Dunellen Athletics
	36014	400.00	6/15/20	Outhouse, LLC

36341 109.99 9/8/20 Ray Pharmacy

Total – Current \$2,818.59

12-20-2021: #13

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

A tattoo license is hereby authorized for Capital Tattoo for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

12-20-2021: #14

CANCEL GRANT RECEIVABLE BALANCES

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel receivable balances from the balance sheet for grants that have expired, and

WHEREAS, the Borough CFO is hereby directed to cancel such receivables to Operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN:

That the following receivable balances be canceled:

Municipal Alliance 2020-21	<u>\$7,571.55</u>
Total	\$7,571.55

12-20-2021: #15

CANCEL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE BALANCES

WHEREAS, it is necessary, from time to time, to formally cancel Accounts Payable balances from the balance sheet from which encumbrances will not be paid, and

WHEREAS, the Borough Finance Officer is hereby directed to cancel such receivables to Operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN:

That the following Accounts Payable balances in the amount of \$516.77 are hereby cancelled:

Accounts Payable (2016)	\$516.77
<u>Total</u>	\$516.77

12-20-2021: #16

TRANSFER 2020 APPROPRIATION RESERVES TO ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

WHEREAS, the 2020 Appropriation Reserves contains unexpended balances of certain appropriations that will not be paid in 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN:

That the following appropriation reserve balances be transferred to an Accounts Payable in the amount set forth below:

20-130-000-220	Finance	\$1,000.00
20-135-000-299	Audit Services	1,810.52
20-140-000-299	Information Technology	3,120.00
20-165-000-222	Engineering Services	24.25
21-181-000-299	Planner Services	673.05
25-240-000-209	Police	9,080.83
26-290-000-204	Road Repairs	241.95
26-310-000-205	Public Buildings and Grounds	<u>5,500.00</u>
	Total	<u>\$21,450.60</u>
55-500-000-220	Sewer Financial Services	\$800.00
55-500-000-234	Sewer Engineering Services	<u>2,299.00</u>
	Total	\$3,099.00

12-20-2021: #17

CANCEL RESERVE BALANCES

WHEREAS, there exists various grant reserves on the balance sheet of the Current Fund, and

WHEREAS, the funds creating these reserves have been investigated and it has been determined that these reserves should be canceled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN:

That the following reserves in the amount of \$905.51 are hereby canceled:

AARP Challenge Grant	\$82.01
Middlesex County Municipal Alliance	
DEDR Account 2020-21	448.50
Local Match 2020-21	<u>375.00</u>
Total	\$905.51

12-20-2021: #18

RESCINDING A PORTION OF A TROPICAL STORM IDA EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS ADOPTED AT PREVIOUSLY HELD MEETINGS OF THE DUNELLEN BOROUGH COUNCIL

WHEREAS, through Resolutions 09-20-2021: #8 and 10-04-2021: #8, adopted on September 20, 2021 and October 4, 2021, respectively, and authorized under N.J.S.A. 40A:4-46 et seq., the Council of the Borough of Dunellen adopted Emergency Appropriations in response to damage caused by Tropical Storm Ida, estimating the costs for debris removal (\$100,000) and repairs to buildings and replacement of vehicles (\$50,000); and

WHEREAS, after closing out the Borough's 2021 financial activity, it has been determined that the adopted amount of the Emergency Resolutions overestimated the costs and is therefore not needed or necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Dunellen (by not less than a majority vote of the full governing body members affirmatively concurring) that:

1. \$40,000 of the \$100,000 projected cost for debris removal is rescinded because it is no longer needed; and
2. That \$25,000 of the \$50,000 projected cost for repairs to various buildings is rescinded because it is no longer needed; and
3. That two (2) certified copies of this resolution will be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Pinder, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

Reports:

Mr. VanDermark: 1) met with Chief Smith regarding Police Department building/facilities repair such as the locker room floor which is being dried with a portable de-humidifier, and ceiling tiles. There is also a need to paint the Tax Office.

Mrs. Rios: 1) the Dunellen Arts and Culture Commission had a Wreath and Ornament Workshop and finished some local businesses with some scenic winter window painting; 2) DACC also caroled last Saturday; 3) the Fire Company will continue to sell Christmas Trees until December 25th; 4) Santa Around Town will begin on 12/24 at 9:30 am; 5) the tent for the apparatus is going up; 6) the Library will have a representative from Elijah's Promise on Wednesday, December 22nd, to help with SNAP or EBT; 7) the Library also has Make or Take kits for children, great to work on during the winter break; 8) the Friends of the Dunellen Library are having their Annual Membership Drive; 9) the Carol Fund has delivered 26 meals this holiday season.

Mrs. Burke: 1) congratulations to Gabrielle Coore, new President of the Dunellen Rescue Squad; 2) noted the public comment from last Council Meeting regarding Rescue Squad response time. They are looking into communication issues that involve our squad, River Road Squad, and Somerset County Dispatch; 3) Chief Smith's contract is still in discussion; 4) she has received one article for the next issue of *The Dunellen Report*; 5) she thanked Council and residents for the last three years. She noted that residents do not always appreciate all the work done by Borough employees.

Dr. Dunne: 1) the Diversity and Inclusion Committee will meet in January and a report will be forthcoming; 2) the Green Brook Flood Control Commission will be having a public meeting in 2022; 3) she has information on the public hearing for the Township of Maplewood which will be on their Cannabis ordinance; 4) will soon begin work on the 2022 Budget; 5) thanked Richard Pinder for "stepping up to the plate" and serving on Council when Mrs. Narvesen resigned; 6) she acknowledged the hard work put in by School Board President Jeff Portik; 7) thanked April Burke for her service to Council and the residents of Dunellen.

Mr. Sigmon: 1) thanked Richard and April for their service; 2) the Recreation Department's annual House Decoration Contest is wrapping up and the winner will be announced on Christmas Eve and Santa will deliver their plaque around 9:30 am as part of one of the great Dunellen traditions - Santa Around Town. The Fire Department, Rescue Squad and Police Department will be escorting Santa throughout Dunellen spreading merriment, holly-jolliness, and a few treats to those of you on the Nice List.

From Alex: I would like to thank my assistant Julie Grof, and all of the Recreation Commission Members for all their time and dedication to our Recreation Programs: Jim Brennan, Laura Ruskuski, Kathy Wilson, Chris Cashin, Melissa Paltjon, Timm Howard, Grace Cordero, Elena Buccino, and Kelly Seader.

Thank you and Merry Christmas, Alex

Maurer House

The Maurer House Committee has to date raised over \$116,000 for the Maurer House and helped navigate many challenges in repairing the structure and property. They have also worked with the Mayor and Council to plan for the future of the Maurer House. While the Committee will make a formal presentation in early 2022, the broad vision is for the Maurer House to be available to the

public as well as the home of the Dunellen Historical Society. To date, the Council has approved projects recommended by the Maurer House Committee totaling more than \$43,000.

- | | | |
|----|---|----------|
| 1. | 12-02-2013 #8 | \$8,900 |
| | a. Kitchen Roof | |
| | b. Broken Window | |
| | c. Hole Repair | |
| | d. Screen Repair | |
| | e. Front Porch Railing | |
| | f. Paint | |
| | g. Power washing | |
| | h. Column Repair | |
| | i. Entry Cement Repair | |
| | j. Header Replacement | |
| | k. Clean Disinfect Basement from Sewage | |
| | l. Initial House Clean-out | |
| | m. Gutter Cleaning | |
| | n. Replaced Lattice | |
| | o. Replaced Lions | |
| 2. | 01-06-2014 #5 | \$4,500 |
| | a. Garage Roof Repairs | |
| | b. Replaced Floor | |
| | c. Secured Railings | |
| | d. Foundation Cement Work | |
| | e. Basement Window Replacement | |
| 3. | 11-04-2019 #6 | \$14,240 |
| | a. Heating System Replacement | |
| 4. | 12-21-2020 #7 | \$7,475 |
| | a. Plaster and Lath removal throughout | |
| | b. Cast Iron radiator removal | |
| 5. | 09-20-2021 #2 | \$8,500 |
| | a. Ongoing Various Repairs | |
| | b. Header Replacement | |
| | c. Termite Damage Repair | |

Mr. Pinder: 1) the downtown is free of debris, thanks to p/t DPW employee Hiram; 2) curbside pick-up will continue until the end of December; 2) after Christmas, the DPW will be picking up trees; 3) thanked all the DPW workers for their hard work this past year; 4) thanked all on the Council for welcoming him.

Mayor Cilento:

We received a thank you note from the Madden family for the arrangements we sent in memory of Kyle Madden.

Covid-19 Update:

Since my last report on 12/6/2021, we have been made aware of ninety-four more new cases added to Dunellen's cumulative total of 1,131 since March 2020. Nineteen of these new cases have been within the last 24 hours. Dunellen's cumulative death total is fifteen.

Dunellen and Middlesex County's cumulative totals can be found at www.discovermiddlesex.com/total-cumulative-cases/

COVID-19 Vaccination Statistics from New Jersey Dashboard (https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_dashboard.shtml):

At Least One Dose
Dunellen Borough
Middlesex County

All Ages:	70%
12 through 17:	66%
12 and over:	81%
18 and over:	83%
30 and over:	83%
65 and over:	93%

Four weeks ago

All Ages:	67%
12 through 17:	65%
12 and over:	79%
18 and over:	80%
30 and over:	80%
65 and over:	90%

Vaccine Courses Complete
Dunellen Borough
Middlesex County

All Ages:	62%
12 through 17:	58%
12 and over:	72%
18 and over:	73%
30 and over:	75%
65 and over:	84%

Four weeks ago

All Ages:	61%
12 through 17:	56%
12 and over:	71%
18 and over:	72%
30 and over:	73%
65 and over:	83%

New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub at: www.covid19.nj.gov.

Vault Medical Services has teamed up with the State of New Jersey to offer at-home free COVID-19 saliva testing for individuals who believe they may need to be tested. For more information on how to sign-up, please visit: <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nj/>

If you are planning to gather with family this Holiday Season, please consider testing yourself before gathering and also getting vaccinated.

If you are in need of assistance due to a mental health crisis because of the impact of COVID-19, please text the crisis line by texting “NJ” to 741741, call the family helpline at 1-800-843-5437 or call the mental health line at 1-866-202-4357.

PSE&G Upgrades for 2022:

We have had multiple meetings with PSE&G about gas mains & gas services replacements in Dunellen for 2022. Several streets on the northwest section of town will be getting new gas mains and new services to their homes, some of these roads will be paved curb to curb by PSE&G, and the others may be paved by the county with the Mill & Pave Project. More information will be forthcoming in the New Year pertaining to the scheduling of these improvements.

DPW:

Thank you to the DPW crew for doing crosswalks near intersections along South Washington Ave that had severe pavement issues. Thank you to Hiram for cleaning up the downtown. He has received many compliments.

Green Brook waterway tree blockage removal:

Following the Mayor's Alliance for a Clean Green Brook Waterway clean-up, we had a meeting with our Green Brook neighbors to discuss a joint tree blockage removal project this winter. Both municipalities will work together to remove fallen trees across the brook that are causing blockages. We informed the Borough of Middlesex about our project, and they will be joining in on the project. We also reached out to the Middlesex County Mosquito Commission for assistance, and they too have committed themselves to helping us this winter. This project is expected to start in mid-January.

Dunellen Station Development:

Work associated with the Dunellen Station Redevelopment Project continues. The North Washington Pump Station improvements as well as the Prism and K Hovnanian site improvements are all underway. Thirteen townhouses have been sold to date. Some of the roadways within the Prism portion of the development were base paved last week.

Thanked Jeff Portik for his hard work; congratulated the new Chief of the Dunellen Rescue Squad; and thanked Jeff and Janna Best for their years of service to the Squad.

Thanked both Richard Pinder and April Burke for all they have done for Dunellen.

Happy Holidays:

As we conclude this year, I hope our neighbors who observed Chanukah had a happy one and enjoyed the festival of lights, and as we come to the celebration of Christmas and Kwanza, may we enjoy time with our families in a safe way and may we move into the New Year with optimism and good faith. Don't forget about Santa around Town on Christmas Eve as he is escorted around town by the Dunellen Fire Department. Be sure to follow him on the tracker that can be found on the Dunellen Fire Department's Facebook page. Please remember to join us on January 1st at noon for our reorganization meeting. More information on how to join will be made available in the near future. I look forward to this day to address the Borough of Dunellen about our accomplishments in 2021 and the look ahead to our 2022 agenda.

Department Heads:

Chief Smith, thanked April Burke for all her hard work.

Homer Mosley: 1) also thanked April; 2) introduced Bill Carlson, the new Deputy OEM Coordinator; 3) he met with Cuyler Tobin regarding the relationship between OEM and the District, discussing issues such as shelter and citizen notifications.

Jeff Best: introduced River Road Chief Evan Shegoski who is now an associate member of our Rescue Squad

Public Comment:

Jeff Portik, outgoing Board of Education President: thanked the Dunellen Rescue Squad, OEM, and Dunellen Fire for working with the District. Also to Chief Smith, and Alex Miller and the Recreation Department. Finally, thanked the Council, and especially for the benefits of the Shared Services Agreement. Columbia Park is a hidden gem in Central New Jersey. It is a testament to the work we have done together. He is very pleased how the District and Borough are now working together productively and amicably.

Liz Lopez-Velez: thanked all the other Department Heads who have supported the library, and to April for her service to Council and the Library.

On the motion of Mrs. Rios and seconded by Mr. Sigmon it was moved to accept the following:

12-20-2021: #19

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

The Dunellen Borough Council Meeting of December 20, 2021 is adjourned.

Yes: Burke, Dunne, Pinder, Rios, Sigmon and VanDermark

The YouTube presentation of this Council meeting can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8IduMGpwDA>