

September 8, 2020

Note: This meeting was held by teleconference.

Minutes of the public meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen held on September 8, 2020.

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, Kenneth Bayer, April Burke, Jessica Dunne, Trina Rios and Daniel Sigmon

On the motion of Dr. Dunne and seconded by Mr. Sigmon it was moved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of August 3, 2020.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Rios and Sigmon

On the motion of Mrs. Burke and seconded by Mr. Bayer it was moved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of August 26, 2020.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Rios and Sigmon

Mayor's Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Authorities

Nathan Hewette-Guyton is appointed to the Dunellen Public Library Board of Trustees, term to expire on December 31, 2021

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

**09-08-2020: #1**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-49 TO FUND SEWER REPAIRS ON MADISON AVENUE AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF EMERGENCY NOTES TO FUND SUCH EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION**

**WHEREAS**, an emergency has arisen requiring the appropriation of funds of the Borough of Dunellen, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey (the "Borough"), in the amount of \$25,000 to provide sewer repairs on Madison Avenue and related streets, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto; and

**WHEREAS**, the total amount of emergency appropriations created, including the appropriations to be created by this resolution, is \$350,000, and 3% of the total current and utility operating appropriations in the budget for CY 2020 is \$216,002.06; and

**WHEREAS**, the foregoing emergency appropriation, together with prior emergency appropriations, exceeds 3% of the total operating appropriations (including utility operation appropriations) in the budget for CY 2020.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY (by not less than two-thirds of the full membership of the governing body affirmatively concurring) as follows:**

1. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-49, petition shall be made to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for permission to exceed the statutory limitation of 3 percent for the creation of one or more appropriations for the purposes set forth in the preamble in accordance with this resolution.
2. An emergency note not in excess of \$25,000 is hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-51.
3. The emergency note authorized herein, if issued, shall be executed by the Mayor and the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough and attested by the Borough Clerk.
4. The Chief Financial Officer of the Borough is hereby delegated the authority to sell and award the note, if any, and such notes, if issued, may be renewed from time to time by the Chief Financial Officer provided that any such renewals shall be payable on or before December 31, 2021.
5. Said emergency appropriations shall be provided in full pursuant to a capital ordinance, entitled, "ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$25,000 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR VARIOUS SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS ON MADISON AVENUE IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY" to be introduced on the date hereof and finally adopted hereafter.
6. Two certified copies of this resolution shall be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.
7. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Rios and Sigmon

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

**09-08-2020: #2**

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

WHEREAS, an emergency has arisen with respect to the need for sewer main repair at the intersection of Madison Avenue and Third Street; and

WHEREAS, this sewer repair, if left unattended, would have affected the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of Dunellen; and

WHEREAS, the nature of this emergency rendered it impossible to adhere to the normal requirements of the Local Public Contracts Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Dunellen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that in accordance with NJSA 40A:4-48, an Emergency Appropriation be made to Sewer Repair for repair of the broken sewer main at the intersection of Madison Avenue and Third Street; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Stilo Paving and Excavating be awarded a contract to repair the broken sewer main, at a cost not to exceed \$19,500.00.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Rios and Sigmon

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

**Ordinance 2020-11**

ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$25,000 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR VARIOUS SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS ON MADISON AVENUE IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. \$25,000 is hereby appropriated from the Capital Improvement Fund of the Borough of Dunellen, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey (the “Borough”) for various sewer

system improvements on Madison Avenue and related streets, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.

Section 2. The Borough hereby certifies that it has adopted a capital budget or a temporary capital budget, as applicable. The capital or temporary capital budget of the Borough is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. To the extent that the purposes authorized herein are inconsistent with the adopted capital or temporary capital budget, a revised capital or temporary capital budget has been filed with the Division of Local Government Services.

Section 3. The appropriation authorized by this bond ordinance provides in full for the \$25,000 appropriation created by a resolution of the Borough duly adopted on September 8, 2020, and entitled, "RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-49 TO FUND SEWER REPAIRS ON MADISON AVENUE AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF EMERGENCY NOTES TO FUND SUCH EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION", and accordingly, said emergency appropriation shall not be provided for as a deferred charge in the Borough's 2021 municipal budget

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect after final adoption and publication and otherwise as provided by law.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Rios and Sigmon

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

**09-08-2020: #3**

**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: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Rios and Sigmon

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

**09-08-2020: #4**

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

Authorization is given for the Payroll Department to provide \$3.00 per hour retroactive pay to Richard Gianchiglia for the period June 8, 2020 to July 31, 2020.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Rios and Sigmon

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

**09-08-2020: #5**

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

The Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized to issue food handler licenses to the following establishments:

Advance Auto Parts -- 216 North Avenue  
American Legion Post #119 -- 137 New Market Road  
Avellino's Italian Restaurant -- 625 Bound Brook Road  
Bakery Delights -- 246 North Avenue  
Brown's Stationery -- 111 North Washington Avenue  
Café Nune -- 14 South Washington Avenue  
Chicken Holiday -- 390 North Avenue  
Columbian Club -- 647 Grove Street  
Dairy Quick -- 615 Bound Brook Road  
Dee's Dogs -- 100 South Washington Avenue  
Devine's Pharmacy -- 374 North Avenue  
Dunellen Bagel -- 390 North Avenue  
Dunellen Bakery -- 215 North Avenue  
Dunellen BBQ -- 626 Bound Brook Road  
Dunellen Board of Education -- High and Lehigh Streets  
Dunellen Hotel -- 120 North Washington Avenue  
Dunellen Liquors -- 195 North Avenue  
El Creador -- 197 North Avenue  
Family Dollar Store -- 215 North Avenue  
First Presbyterian Church -- 218 Dunellen Avenue  
Footprints Christian School & St. Lukes Evangelical Lutheran Church -- 264 New Market Road  
Healthy Life -- 375 North Avenue

Hot Spot Fitness – 310B North Avenue  
J&G Texas Weiners -- 238 North Avenue  
Just Us Children Learning Center -- 419 North Avenue  
Kwick Mart -- 221 North Avenue  
Lucky 7 Days -- 392 North Avenue  
Maggie Murray's -- 119 North Washington Avenue  
Mi Rincon Latino -- 248 North Avenue  
Mike's Subs/30 Burgers -- 14 South Washington Avenue  
Mis Amigos Mexican Restaurant -- 373 North Avenue  
N Avenue Liquors -- 252 North Avenue  
Panda Restaurant -- 350 North Avenue  
Planet Chicken -- 107 North Avenue  
Precious Gifts Day Care Center – 400 New Market Road  
Precious Moments – 358 North Avenue  
Quick Check – 426 North Avenue  
Ray Pharmacy – 2 South Washington Avenue  
Robert's Kitchen – 330 North Avenue  
Rome Pizza -- 334 North Avenue  
Roscoe's Wrap It Up – 399 North Avenue  
St. John the Evangelist Church -- 317 North Washington Avenue  
Seafood Boil – 201 North Avenue  
Sun Power Gas -- 301 North Avenue  
Tipico's Olga -- 106 North Avenue  
Tropical Supermarket -- 446 North Avenue  
Uncle Louie G's – 500 North Avenue  
United Methodist Church – 150 Dunellen Avenue  
Veterans of Foreign Wars -- 201 Prospect Avenue  
Zupko's Tavern – 450 North Avenue

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Rios and Sigmon

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

**09-08-2020: #6**

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

Whereas, applications for renewal of liquor licenses for the year 2020-2021 have been submitted,  
and

Whereas, no objections to said renewals have been filed, and

Whereas, the proper fees have been paid by all applicants.

Now therefore be it resolved that the following be granted renewals of their licenses for the year beginning July 1, 2020 and expiring June 30, 2021:

American Legion Post 119 -- 1203-31-013-001  
Columbian Club of Dunellen, Inc. -- 1203-31-016-001  
N Avenue Liquors [North Tavern] -- 1203-32-006-003  
Country Rose, LLC [Maggie Murray's] -- 1203-32-008-003  
Mar Kar, Inc., [Avellino's] -- 1203-33-004-008  
JJR Restaurant LLC [Dunellen Hotel] -- 1203-33-007-004  
One and Dunn LLC [Roxy and Duke's] -- 1203-33-011-007  
Zupkos Tavern, LLC [Zupko's] -- 1203-33-012-005  
Dunellen Liquors Inc -- 1203-44-001-006  
VFW Post 5479 -- 1203-31-018-001

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Rios and Sigmon

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

**09-08-2020: #7**

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

An official Borough of Dunellen Facebook page and an official Borough of Dunellen You Tube channel is hereby authorized.

Dr. Dunne asked if this was the way we should move forward for official Dunellen social media pages such as Instagram or Twitter? Dr. Robins responded that in order to be consistent, each time we create a new platform we should obtain Council approval. Dr. Dunne asked about other department social media? Dr. Robins responded that currently the Social Media Committee is reviewing those existing pages, and at the appropriate time they too would be presented to the Council for approval. Mr. Bruder concurred.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Rios and Sigmon

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**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

**09-08-2020: #8|**

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor granted total exemption of property taxes as of April 1, 2019 for the following property due to a 100% disabled veteran, and

WHEREAS, CoreLogic paid 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, 2020 property taxes and is due a refund.

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

That the proper borough officers be and they are hereby authorized and directed to issue a check as follows:

<b>Block</b>	<b>Lot</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
60	37	Bubenick, Richard 375 Fairview Road  Check Payable and Mail To:  Corelogic Real Estate Tax Service Attn: Refund Department 3001 Hackberry Road Irving, TX 75063	\$4,482.24

**09-08-2020: #9**

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor granted total exemption of property taxes as of September 16, 2019 for the following property due to a 100% disabled veteran, and

WHEREAS, CoreLogic paid 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, 2020 property taxes and is due a refund.

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

That the proper borough officers be and they are hereby authorized and directed to issue a check as follows:



<b>Block</b>	<b>Lot</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
47	15	Tippett, Melissa 821 Dunellen Ave  Check Payable and Mail To:  Corelogic Real Estate Tax Service Attn: Refund Department 3001 Hackberry Road Irving, TX 75063	\$4,001.54

**09-08-2020: #10**

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

Be it resolved by the governing body of the Borough of Dunellen, New Jersey, that:

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue the following checks to CME Associates from the “Duke Property, LLC” Planning Board Escrow account, for engineering work done for the redevelopment.

<u>CME Associates</u>	<u>Amount</u>
0265014	\$469.75
Total:	<u>\$469.75</u>

**09-08-2020: #11**

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

Be it resolved by the governing body of the Borough of Dunellen, New Jersey, that:

Resolution 08-03-2020: #17 is amended:

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue the following checks to CME Associates, from the Interim Cost Agreement Escrow Account for work done toward Dunellen Stations redevelopment, subject to the refunding of the Account:

<u>CME Associates</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
0256205	Redevelopment	\$1,203.00
0261181	Redevelopment	\$2,923.50
0262310	Redevelopment	\$5,554.50
0263430	Redevelopment	\$4,253.75
0254832	Redevelopment	\$1,956.00
0263775	Redevelopment	<u>\$2,141.50</u>
	Total	<u>\$18,032.25</u>

**09-08-2020: #12**

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

Be it resolved by the governing body of the Borough of Dunellen, New Jersey, that:

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue the following checks to CME Associates, from the Interim Cost Agreement Escrow Account for work done toward Dunellen Stations redevelopment, subject to the refunding of the Account:

<u>CME Associates</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
0266871	Redevelopment	\$2,176.00
	Total	<u>\$2,176.00</u>

**09-08-2020: #13**

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

Be it resolved by the governing body of the Borough of Dunellen, New Jersey, that:

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue the following checks to King Moench Hirniak & Mehta, LLP., from the Interim Cost Agreement Escrow Account for legal work done toward Dunellen Stations redevelopment, subject to the refunding of the Account:

<u>King Moench</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
91560	Redevelopment	\$1,056.00
	Total	\$1,056.00

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Rios and Sigmon

Reports:

Mrs. Rios: 1) Dunellen Library Board of Trustees meeting will be this Thursday at 7:00 pm; 2) the Library is setting up for re-opening—go to their website for further information; 3) the next Farmers’ Market will be at the Library parking lot on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, from 11 – 2:00 pm; 4) Dunellen Schools will hold virtual classes until November 30<sup>th</sup>; 5) Back to School Night at Dunellen High School on September 17<sup>th</sup>, Lincoln Middle School on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, and John P. Faber School on September 24<sup>th</sup>, the next Board of Education Meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. These are all virtual; 6) HarvestFest 2020 is going forward on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>; 7) the Municipal Alliance held their Drug Overdose program on August 31<sup>st</sup> and it was well attended; 8) Boy Scout Troop 29 will be hosting their town-wide garage sale this Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Burke: 1) the Dunellen Police Monthly Report has been released and they are approaching pre-lockdown levels in the number of summonses being issued; 2) *Dunellen Report* deadline is September 15th if anyone has anything to add; 3) the Office of Emergency Management continues to hold meetings for training as well as monthly meetings for coronavirus virtual conferences. OEM is in need of volunteers to help with various tasks so if you are a resident and would like to volunteer, please reach out to Mr. Mosley; 4) all the Fire Department trucks will need their yearly certifications. The ladder truck is in need of serious repair and for all trucks the Fire Department will need financial assistance from the borough. The ladder truck is our oldest truck and is entering the stage where repairs will be quite costly; 5) October 13<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to register to vote for the General Election and you can now register online.

Mr. Bayer: 1) Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority (PARSA) has been cleaning the yearly 20% of our sewer lines. We gave them a list of roads that we plan on working on in the near future and they are cameraing these. PARSA has not found anything that needs our action. Funds for this project come from the CDBG grant; 2) he and Mayor Cilento sent a letter to the County regarding Dunellen being placed on their milling and paving program. They accepted us and we are now officially members. They mill and pave the roads for us and we pay only material costs, a great savings to the taxpayers; 3) as of August the Construction Department has brought in about \$55,000 in fees which is not far off the mark; 4) the Art Color Memorial Committee will be meeting next week to discuss locations.

Dr. Dunne: 1) we have a mechanic in the DPW and all departments should be sending their vehicles to him; 2) the Dunellen Parking Authority will be meeting tomorrow night and one topic will be enforcement of parking meters; 3) about 200 residents received letters in regard to work to

be done by the US Army Corp of Engineers along the Green Brook. This work is in anticipation of the large project which is moving upstream through Middlesex to Green Brook and will arrive in Dunellen in a few years.

Mr. Sigmon: 1) as we transition into fully in-person meetings, we will be using our new social media platform sites for live streaming, which will continue even after we are entirely back to in-person Council Meetings; 2) the Social Media Committee is working to get our previously recorded meetings onto our You Tube Channel and Facebook page; 3) movie night will be September 25<sup>th</sup>. This will be both a streaming experience and people can be in their vehicles observing social distancing.

Mayor Cilento:

This meeting is moving toward a hybrid form of meetings. I welcome back our Dunellen educators, administration, teachers and students. I commend the School District for their communication with the borough. We have a very good relationship.

### **Covid-19 Update:**

As of today, we have currently a cumulative total of 218 for Dunellen, with 9 deaths. Dunellen and Middlesex County's cumulative totals can be found at [www.discovermiddlesex.com/total-cumulative-cases/](http://www.discovermiddlesex.com/total-cumulative-cases/). As Dunellen continues to flatten its curve, please remember to wear face masks in public.

New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub at: [www.covid19.nj.gov](http://www.covid19.nj.gov).

If you are in need of assistance due to a mental health crisis or domestic violence, here are contact numbers for you: the crisis text line by texting "NJ" to 741741; call the family helpline at 1-800-843-5437; the domestic violence hotline at 1-800-572-7233; or the mental health line at 1-866-202-4357. We encourage you to utilize these resources during this challenging time. You matter, and we want you to be safe.

**Census 2020:** Dunellen's response rate to the 2020 U.S. Census is currently 74.2%. Last meeting, we were at 73%, and a decade ago we had a response rate of 69%. The Census will continue to September 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have not completed it, you may do so online still. An accurate number is important for federal funding, as well as congressional representation. Please fill it out if you have not done so already.

**Dunellen Arts and Culture Commission:** Last week's concert was rained out during the performance. The concert is rescheduled for this Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Washington Park. I encourage everyone to do takeout dinner from a Dunellen eatery and bring it over to the park for a picnic and enjoy a free concert.

**COVID-19 Pop-Up Food Drive:** We had another Pop-Up Food Drive for our neighbors in need during this pandemic on September 5<sup>th</sup>. We plan to do this monthly as FISH Inc. is running on a limited schedule. We helped 22 households this past weekend, which accounts for 55 individuals. Thanks to Council Members Stacy Narvesen and Trina Rios, Philip McGuane, Rob Puckett, Laura and Emily Murray, Alex Miller and the members of the Living Hope Outreach Center for all their help.

The next food drive date for residents in need is on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Living Hope Outreach Center from 9am to 12pm.

We will have a food/supply drop off on September 30<sup>th</sup> 5-7pm and October 1<sup>st</sup> 10am-12noon. We are in need of more non-perishable and non-expired food for our neighbors in need. Thank you to all who have donated. It's greatly appreciated.

### **Capital Improvements:**

1. FY 2019 Recycling Tonnage Grant:
  - a. Paperwork has been submitted to the State.
  - b. This is a grant to encourage municipalities to undertake local source separation and recycling programs such as separate containers in the yard for paper, cans, and metal.
2. Railroad Avenue Sewer Repairs:
  - a. Stilo Contracting is obtaining required insurance documents and addressing railroad requirements before work may begin.
  - b. Bill Robins met with residents in the area today to discuss the project
3. Grove Street Improvements:
  - a. Notice of Award has been sent to Jads Construction.
  - b. Jads is obtaining required bonds and insurance.
  - c. We are preparing NJDOT submission for approval to go to construction.
4. South Madison Avenue Improvements:
  - a. Comments have been received from DOT and are being addressed by the engineers.
  - b. Flashing pedestrian signs are being added to bid documents and will be part of resubmission to DOT.

### **Grant Opportunity:**

NJDOT Division of Local Aid and Economic Development: Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program –

1. The Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA Set-Aside) program provides federal funds for community based “non-traditional” surface transportation projects designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the nation’s intermodal system. TA Set-Aside projects must relate to surface transportation.
2. Projects must be requested to be funded between \$150,000 and \$1 million.
3. Funds are provided on a reimbursement basis.
4. Project is funded at 100% of the construction cost.
5. CME is working on a concept plan that would recognize pedestrian safety in downtown Dunellen, sidewalk improvements, and streetscape improvements such as ADA compliance, newly planted and replaced trees, and adding foliage around trees for storm water management.
6. Concept plan to be brought to Council at the September 21 Council meeting for approval for CME to submit application.

**Letter to the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications – NJ Board of Public Utilities:** I wrote a letter to Director Lawanda Gilbert, joining Piscataway Township, Hamilton

Township and Robbinsville Township expressing our dissatisfaction with Optimum in terms of internet and cable services and pricing, and asking the NJ Board of Public Utilities to look into their quality of services and the pricing and to create a more competitive market to improve pricing and service. I ask to include the letter in the minutes at Council's consent.

Consent was granted by Council.

Ms. Lawanda Gilbert, Director  
Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications  
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities  
44 South Clinton Avenue  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Director Gilbert,

On behalf of the Borough of Dunellen, I am writing this letter to inform you that the Borough of Dunellen joins with the Piscataway Township, Hamilton Township and Robbinsville Township in requesting you to consider an investigation of Optimum.

Like the residents of these other municipalities, our citizens are very dependent upon a good, strong and consistent Internet connection so they may productively work from home and take classes by distant learning. Too often, many residents in Dunellen suffer significant service disruptions that deleteriously impact their lives and livelihoods.

As you know, Optimum has a near monopoly on Internet and cable television in Dunellen. Surely, competition among different carriers would lower prices and improve service, both technological service and customer service. Dunellen has frequently called upon other providers to franchise within the Borough; sadly, with no success. Many throughout the State of New Jersey are under the impression that municipalities decide which service providers in these fields will service their constituency. You and I both know this isn't true. These service providers are private companies and draw their own lines within their designated boundaries.

In having said all of this, I believe it is appropriate that the Board of Public Utilities should examine Optimum and other service providers and the quality of services that they provide to New Jersey residents, and at the cost in which they are provided.

We thank you for listening to our concerns.

Yours very truly,



Jason F. Cilento, Mayor  
Borough of Dunellen

Homer Mosley, Office of Emergency Management: 1) Emergency Operations Plan updating is ongoing; 2) we will be representing Dunellen at the 911 Celebration on Friday in Middlesex; 3) there will be a meeting on Thursday where we will continue our training; 4) September is National

Preparedness Month and in keeping with that we have placed some items on the OEM page of the web site regarding preparation; 5) Terri Albertson has put together an “Emergency Go Kit” list that everyone should have in case something happens; 6) he and Pete Albertson have completed the FEMA Courses 100 and 200 and have received their certificates; 7) along with Bill Robins, we are participating in the Middlesex County Hazard Mitigation Study; 8) we should expect a reimbursement check from the CARES Act soon from the first round of submissions and we are now working on the second time period submission.

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**PUBLIC PORTION**

No one from the public spoke.

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

**09-08-2020: #14**

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

The Dunellen Borough Council Meeting of September 8, 2020 is adjourned.

Yes: Bayer, Burke, Dunne, Rios and Sigmon

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