

February 5th, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hunterdon County Grant to Support Franklin Township's Economic Goals

FLEMINGTON – The trend of Hunterdon municipalities re-examining their ordinances and procedures continues to pick up steam, with the county's economic development grant program as one of the catalysts driving the process. At their most recent meeting, Hunterdon County Freeholders approved a grant to Franklin Township to update town ordinances. The grant total will be \$8,190, with the township paying the remaining mandatory 10% cost share of the overall \$9,100 effort.

According to Franklin Township officials, the town's goals are to increase the township's economic activity, to increase the commercial ratable base, and lighten the tax burden upon residential properties by encouraging new business and entrepreneurship.

"Franklin Township has under-utilized opportunities that exist along our county roads and in areas driven by our proximity to I78" commented Mayor Phil Koury. "Updating the ordinances will allow our municipality to meet its potential."

According to Freeholder Director Shaun Van Doren, the township's pro-active approach towards growing its economy fits well with the county's vision.

"This has been a goal of the Freeholder Board since even before officially launching our economic development initiative in 2016," stated Van Doren, "The number of towns stepping forward to utilize the grant program for similar purposes just shows how united Hunterdon is about creating a sustainable economy and opportunity for our citizens."

According to Economic Development Director Marc Saluk, five county municipalities now have accepted grants to streamline local policy and procedure and three more are likely on the verge of applying for funding to do the same. Aside from Franklin, towns running similar endeavors also include Frenchtown, Raritan Township, Clinton Township, and the Town of Clinton.

Franklin Township will explore a wide range of updates and revisions as permitted uses, parking requirements, land use, and zoning policy may all be examined.

The timeline for Implementation is expected to be six-months with an expected start date of mid-February of this year.

All Hunterdon municipalities are encouraged to reach out to the economic development office to explore potential opportunities utilizing the grant program.

“We’re committed to the idea that future generations will continue to find the opportunity for success in Hunterdon County,” stated Freeholder Matt Holt, “This grant program is one way that our economic development initiative is doing just that.”