

June 6th, 2019

For Immediate Release

Freeholders Approve Two Economic Development Grants for Hunterdon Municipalities

FLEMINGTON- Hunterdon County Freeholders recently approved funding assistance to support projects in two county municipalities through the newly created economic development grant program (EDGP).

Approved was \$9,000 to The Borough of Flemington for promotion of its recently-gained status as an Opportunity Zone (OZ) and \$8550 to The Town of Clinton for upgrades to the Town's municipal website to support economic sustainability by facilitating access to frequently requested documents and information, among other items.

According to Hunterdon County Economic Development Director Marc Saluk, both efforts support objectives that are consistent with the programs and initiatives run by the county's office of economic development, as is an EDGP eligibility requirement. An additional requirement is a 10% local match.

"The grant program was created to partner with the efforts of Hunterdon towns actively working to grow their economies," commented Freeholder Matt Holt. "Anything to help create opportunity for the citizens of the county is something this office should support."

According to Saluk, Flemington's designation as an OZ does just that.

Created in December 2017, Opportunity Zones are a federally recognized geographic area, designated as such to encourage long-term investment. Opportunity Zones provide a tax-incentive to investors in return for a (minimally) seven-year investment in these communities.

"This incentive gives Flemington something distinctive to market to help attract the type of investment that is needed to create a sustainable future for the borough, so we're definitely working hard to get the word out," commented Flemington Mayor Betsy Driver.

To do this, Driver recently established an Opportunity Zone Committee to better plan how to leverage the Borough's OZ designation and to oversee execution of those plans.

The Committee's efforts to attract investment include the upcoming Opportunity Zone Summit to showcase the Borough of Flemington to developers, investors, and planners. This event is scheduled for July 11th of this year.

Saluk states that, in addition to supporting the promotion and execution of the OZ Summit, the grant to Flemington can support long-range OZ promotion and marketing including creation of a website and other relevant materials.

Clinton's grant will allow the town to implement several upgrades to the municipal website. These upgrades will be designed to better support economic sustainability, including development of a portal to act as a "one stop shop" for those seeking items such as plans, ordinances, zoning maps, applications, fee schedules, and project checklists and timelines.

"Updating the website is the first step in providing a more accessible path to doing business in Clinton," said Clinton Mayor Janice Kovach. "When it's completed, the Town will better be able to serve the residents and business community."

Saluk stated that the economic development grant program is open to all Hunterdon County municipalities. Inquiries can be directed directly to Mr. Saluk at 908-399-1108 or to msaluk@co.hunterdon.nj.us