



Board of Chosen Freeholders

County of Hunterdon
71 Main Street, Building #1
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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hunterdon Continues Local Economic Support With Sixth Municipal Economic Development Grant

Continuing Hunterdon County's effort to ensure the area's economic recovery is strong, as the region emerges from the state's COVID-19 shutdown, the County Freeholder Board recently approved a municipal economic development grant for East Amwell Township to support the revitalization of the Ringoes Village, the sixth such grant award to Hunterdon municipalities in 2020.

"East Amwell's Ringoes Village plan is the kind of project that is in line with the goals of the County's economic development grant program, which has been well received by our local governing bodies," Freeholder Board Director Shaun Van Doren said.

"The grant for East Amwell is another major step taken this year in a series of moves by the Freeholder Board designed to help make Hunterdon competitive and investable, as the economy recovers," Freeholder Matt Holt, the Board's Economic Development liaison, stated.

According to the resolution approved at the September 1st Freeholder meeting, the grant of \$18,000 to East Amwell is to assist efforts to revitalize Ringoes and encourage economic development in the township. As per the County's grant program guidelines, the town is responsible for 10% of the overall project cost of \$20,000, so will be putting \$2,000 towards the effort.

Van Doren noted, "This grant is yet another example of a shared service where the County is working together with our municipalities for the benefit of residents and taxpayers."



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The Ringoes Village Advisory Committee, created to guide the village's revitalization efforts, has found that the Ringoes Village Study, created in 2014, requires updating in order to support the township's current economic development vision. Along with this, the Township will also review its associated planning and zoning along the 31/202 corridor.

"These changes should help the township revitalize Ringoes, contribute to the local economy, and set the stage for other planned economic development efforts to follow," Holt explained.

Other municipalities receiving economic development grants this year include Lambertville, Milford, Frenchtown, Franklin Township, and Kingwood Township.

"The goal of these county funded projects is to help make the towns more attractive for investment, while maintaining the character of the community," Holt added.

According to Economic Development Director Marc Saluk, "Projects spurred from grants issued in 2019 are also wrapping up this year. Examples include the Borough of High Bridge, which enhanced its municipal website, and Raritan Township, which utilized grant funding for a planning and zoning review that is currently underway."

The grant program is funded annually with grants being issued on a rolling basis to Hunterdon municipalities looking to launch programs and initiatives that are consistent with the county's economic development objectives.

"In another move to provide a boost to the local business community, the Freeholders earlier this year approved local business non-profits, such as merchant associations and chambers of commerce, as eligible recipients of the grant program, so that they are better able to provide services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic," Saluk said.

Those looking for more information can contact Marc Saluk at the economic development office at 908-399-1108 or at msaluk@co.hunterdon.nj.us