

**Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County  
Approved  
Thursday, November 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**Name/Organization**

**Voting Members**

Jason Dameo, Vice-Chair, Regional Center Partnership (RCP)  
Filipe Pedroso, Bridgewater Twp. Council  
Chuck McMullin, Mayor, Raritan Borough  
Zachary Bray, Raritan Borough Council  
Angela Knowles, Raritan Borough Planner  
Jane Kobuta, Somerville Borough Council  
Richard St. Pierre, Somerville  
Brian Gallagher, Somerset County (SC) Board of Chosen Freeholders  
Walter Lane, SC Planning Division  
Geoffrey Soriano, SC Park Commission  
Cindie Sullivan, SC Park Commission (Alternate)  
Michael Kerwin, SC Business Partnership

**Non-voting County Support Staff**

James Ruggieri, SC Planning Division

**Non-Voting Guests**

Rich Reitman, The Reitman Group

The meeting commenced at approximately 5:10 PM

**Business Items**

**Call to Order**

Vice-Chair Jason Dameo called the meeting to order.

**Attendance Roll Call**

Principal Planner James Ruggieri read through the roll call and noted for the record the voting members that were in attendance.

**Chair's Remarks**

Vice-Chair Jason Dameo welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Chair Troy Fischer is away.

**Adoption of Meeting Minutes**

There being no changes or corrections, Raritan Mayor Chuck McMullin moved to accept the September 18, 2019 meeting minutes and Somerville Local private/institutional sector representative Rick St. Pierre seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Abstentions: Filipe Pedroso, Zachary Bray, Angela Knowles and Brian Gallagher.

The motion to approve the minutes was approved.

### **Treasurer's Report for November 7, 2019**

There being no any questions or comments, Vice-Chair Dameo asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for November 7, 2019. Mayor McMullin moved and Somerset County Planning Director Walter Lane seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: Jason Dameo, Filipe Pedroso, Chuck McMullin, Zachary Bray, Angela Knowles, Jane Kobuta, Rick St. Pierre, Brian Gallagher, Walter Lane, Geoff Soriano, and Mike Kerwin.

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

The motion was approved.

### **Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments concerning the Action items on the agenda.

### **Action Items**

#### **Executive Committee Recommendation for the 4 At-Large Private/Institutional Sector Representatives for 2020-2021 Term**

Reporting on behalf of the Executive Committee, Mayor McMullin explained that, of the 21 voting members of the Regional Center Partnership, four (4) are At-Large Private/Institutional Sector representatives whose term ends this January. The current At-Large Private/Institutional Sector representatives are

- Vicky Allen of Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health
- Jason Dameo of Dameo Trucking Inc.
- Troy Fischer of Bridgewater Commons
- Anthony Tufaro of Ethicon Somerville

The Nominating Committee confirmed that Vicky Allen, Jason Dameo, Troy Fischer and Anthony Tufaro are willing to serve for the upcoming 2-year term which runs January 2020 through January 2022. The Executive Committee is pleased to recommend Vicky Allen, Jason Dameo, Troy Fischer and Anthony Tufaro.

Mayor McMullin asked for a motion to accept the Executive Committee report. Somerset County Freeholder Brian Gallagher moved to accept the Executive Committee's report and nomination of the four At-Large Private/Institutional Sector representatives for the 2020-2021 term; Somerset County Park Commission Secretary/Director Geoffrey Soriano seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: 11  
Nays: none  
Abstentions: none

The motion was approved.

**Nomination Report for Officer Positions and Appointment of At-Large Private/Institutional Sector Representative to the Executive Committee for 2020-2021 Term**

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Mayor McMullin reported that the Regional Center Partnership (RCP) Bylaws prescribe a two-year term of service for the officers as well as the At-Large Private/Institutional Sector representative appointment to the Executive Committee. The current term ends this January, 2020. The Nominating Committee has confirmed the following slate for the four officer positions and the At-Large Private/Institutional Sector representative appointment to the Executive Committee for the new term which runs January 2020 through January 2022:

- Chair: Troy Fischer
- Vice-Chair: Jason Dameo
- Treasurer: Vicky Allen
- Secretary: James Ruggieri; and
- Vicky Allen as the At-Large Private/Institutional Sector representative to the Executive Committee.

Mayor McMullin asked for a motion to accept the nomination report. Freeholder Gallagher moved to accept the nomination report, Mr. Soriano seconded the motion.

Vice-Chair Dameo asked if there were any nominees from the floor to add to the slate of nominees; there were none. Mr. Lane moved to close the nomination period; Freeholder Gallagher seconded the motion.

Vice-Chair Dameo then asked for a motion to accept the slate of nominees. Mayor McMullin moved to accept the slate of nominees and the At-Large Private/Institutional Sector representative appointment to the Executive Committee for the 2020-2021 term; Freeholder Gallagher seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: 11  
Nays: none  
Abstentions: none

The motion was approved.

**Award Year 1 of 24-month Competitive Contract for Auditing and Tax-related Services**

Mr. Ruggieri reported that, as authorized by the RCP at the September meeting, on September 24 staff released the Request For Proposals (RFP) to perform auditing and tax-related services for the year ending December 31,

2019 for a not to exceed amount of \$3,400.00 per year. The RFP was based on the County's template used for soliciting proposals through the competitive contracting process. One (1) proposal was received by the submission deadline. The proposal was submitted by Suplee Clooney & Company for a fee of \$3,400.00 per year. County Purchasing reviewed the proposal and deemed it technically complete. The proposal was reviewed by the proposal evaluation team resulting in a total score of 375 out of a maximum possible score of 400. The recommendation from the Executive Committee is to award the contract to Suplee Clooney & Company at a rate of \$3,400.00 per year.

Freeholder Gallagher moved to award the contract to Suplee Clooney & Company to perform auditing and tax-related services for a not-to-exceed amount of \$3,400.00 per year; Mr. Soriano seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: Jason Dameo, Filipe Pedroso, Chuck McMullin, Zachary Bray, Angela Knowles, Jane Kobuta, Rick St. Pierre, Brian Gallagher, Walter Lane, Geoff Soriano, and Mike Kerwin.

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

The motion was approved.

### **Funding Allocation for Phase III Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grants**

Mr. Ruggieri explained that pedestrian safety remains a priority issue in the Regional Center especially as our communities become more walkable and interconnected for pedestrians and bicyclists. In light of this, staff recommends \$60,000.00 be allocated from this year's budget to make available Phase III Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grants of up to \$20,000.00 per town. Mr. Lane noted the first two Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grant rounds were very successful and this would support the Regional Center Strategic Plan's goal to make the Regional Center more bicycle and pedestrian friendly; to possibly pursue recommendations identified in the Somerset County Walk, Bike Hike Study; and to help support local circulation planning efforts. Some brief discussion followed. Mr. Ruggieri noted the recommended grant amount is a \$5,000.00 increase per town from the previous Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grant rounds.

Mayor McMullin moved to allocate from the 2019 budget up to \$60,000.00 for Phase III Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grants; Freeholder Gallagher seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: Jason Dameo, Filipe Pedroso, Chuck McMullin, Zachary Bray, Angela Knowles, Jane Kobuta, Rick St. Pierre, Brian Gallagher, Walter Lane, Geoff Soriano, and Mike Kerwin.

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

The motion was approved.

## **Funding Allocation for Resiliency**

Mr. Ruggieri explained that, since the Somerset County Regional Center Strategic Plan was adopted in July 2018, the RCP has done a respectable job supporting three of the Regional Center Strategic Plan's four themes - Health and Wellness, Embracing the Raritan River, and Job Growth and Private Sector Investment - whereas the Resiliency theme has not received as much attention. Mr. Ruggieri explained how supporting efforts to increase resiliency is important to the Regional Center's economy, quality of life, and emergency management. Mr. Ruggieri then described examples of possible resiliency-type projects. Mr. Lane added that since Somerset County recently completed updating the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan which includes the Bridgewater, Raritan, and Somerville annexes, staff thought that funding could be made available in the form of challenge grants to help the towns advance one of the recommendations in their respective annex.

The recommendation is to allocate up to \$45,000.00 from the current budget under Plan Implementation to offer challenge grants of up to \$15,000.00 per town to pursue a resiliency-related initiative or project. Guidelines would be developed for the challenge grants. The initiative could either be for planning purposes or something project-specific. The Executive Committee supports allocating \$45,000.00 from the current budget for this purpose.

Much discussion followed. There was some concern that allocating the suggested \$45,000.00 for resiliency challenge grants in addition to the \$60,000 that was just allocated for Phase III Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grants would leave RCP with an estimated uncommitted funding balance of \$9,078.00 to pursue the economic development issues which remain a high priority. Mayor McMullin and others suggested RCP reconsider committing additional funding at this time because even with the \$10,000.00 still available for Strategic Initiatives would likely be insufficient to help champion the goal of getting legislation adopted that would create a statewide business incentive program that is fairer and more equitable to suburban communities like the Regional Center and Somerset County. It was also noted that it appears we are very close to achieving this goal. Mayor McMullin articulated the potential far-reaching impact the outcome of all this could have on Somerset County and the Regional Center.

### (Strategic Economic Development Activities Phase 2 Update)

At this point in the meeting, the consensus was that Somerset County Business Partnership (SCBP) President & CEO Mike Kerwin should update everyone on the status of Strategic Economic Development Activities Phase 2 now rather than later in the meeting during the Information Items part of the agenda.

Mr. Kerwin summarized the work undertaken by the SCBP and the County towards getting a new state business/economic development incentive program adopted that would be fairer for suburban areas like the Regional Center and Somerset County when applying for incentive assistance. Mr. Kerwin, Mr. Lane and Mr. Maddocks have had meetings and discussions with representatives and staff members working on potential legislation for a new economic development incentive program. If legislation is adopted during the "lame duck" session then the SCBP's work is finished and we can declare victory but if nothing is passed then it may be necessary to act swiftly to not lose the gains achieved through the Strategic Economic Development Activities work. If such action were to become necessary the SCBP might have to again retain professional support services which case the Strategic Economic Development Activities contract agreement between RCP and SCBP would need to be extended and likely before the next Regional Center Partnership meeting on January 15. Mr. Kerwin noted whatever new business incentives program that will emerge, the "suburban disadvantage" effect will be much less of an issue than if no action had been taken; in fact, the "90% limiter" of the old Grow-NJ program is now gone in the proposed legislation. Mr. Kerwin also passed around two case study summaries of how state business incentive and redevelopment financing assistance were instrumental in retaining 1,000 jobs in Raritan Borough and transforming development along Main Street in Somerville into a new and vibrant mix of residential and commercial uses.

In response to Mr. Kerwin's update, Mr. Lane suggested perhaps it would be more prudent to commit \$20,000.00 out of the current budget for Strategic Initiatives and hold off on offering resiliency challenge grants until next year as part of next year's budget.

Mr. St. Pierre asked if more creative placemaking Challenge Grants will be offered, adding that the success Somerville enjoyed with the results of their downtown Seward Johnson Atelier sculpture display project serves to illustrate how creative placemaking can be an effective tool to support the local economy and that he hopes Raritan and Bridgewater will be able to experience similar success with their respective creative placemaking efforts. Mr. Lane noted that funding for creative placemaking could be considered under next year's budget which was next on the agenda.

After further discussion, the consensus was that, given what is at stake in terms of the potential long-term economic impact on the Regional Center and Somerset County that could result from the business/economic development incentive legislation that may get adopted in the immediate or near-term future, funding in the amount of \$20,000.00 should be allocated out of the current budget for Strategic Initiatives so that RCP in partnership with the Business Partnership and Somerset County will be ready to respond during the "moment of truth."

It was also suggested that as part of next year's budget a form of Challenge Grants be offered that will be broader and more nimble to give the towns the ability to propose the utilization of funds to towards a priority of their master plan with the stipulation that the project or planning initiative being proposed is consistent with one or more of the Regional Center Strategic Plan's four themes (Health and Wellness, Resiliency, Embracing the Raritan River, and Job Growth and Private Sector Investment). Mr. Lane noted that grant guidelines will be prepared with the understanding that towns may want to pursue more than one project. The conclusion was that, in order to be able to offer this type of Challenge Grant program next year, and provide ample funding now for the Strategic Initiatives, it may be necessary to undo the action previously taken in the meeting that allocated the \$60,000.00 for Phase III Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grants.

Pursuant to the foregoing, Mr. Lane made a motion to undo the previously approved allocation of \$60,000.00 from the current budget for Phase III Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grants; Mr. Lane also moved to allocate from the current budget \$20,000.00 for Strategic Initiatives and, in connection with this, to empower the Executive Committee to amend the existing contract agreement between the RCP and the Business Partnership for Strategic Economic Development Activities if that becomes necessary before the January 15, 2020 RCP business meeting; both motions were seconded by Freeholder Gallagher.

A roll call vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: Jason Dameo, Filipe Pedroso, Chuck McMullin, Zachary Bray, Angela Knowles, Jane Kobuta, Rick St. Pierre, Brian Gallagher, Walter Lane, and Geoff Soriano.

Nays: none

Abstentions: Mike Kerwin.

The motion was approved.

The RCP opted to act on the motion to undo the previously approved \$60,000.00 Phase III Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grant allocation and the motion to allocate \$20,000.00 for Strategic Initiatives and empower the Executive Committee accordingly as a combined motion.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **Draft Preliminary 2020 Budget & Workplan**

Mr. Ruggieri presented the draft Preliminary 2020 Budget and Workplan. In light of the preceding actions taken earlier in the meeting involving the allocation of funds from the current budget, the total estimated budget is now approximately \$190,000.00 including an estimated \$94,000.00 in carry-over funds from the current budget. Of the total budget for 2020, \$25,000.00 is proposed for Public & Business Education (marketing) representing a \$2,000.00 increase from 2019 for this line item. \$5,000.00 is proposed for Non-Profit Legal/Accounting which is the same amount budgeted in 2019 for this line item. The balance of the budget is for Plan Implementation which would include funding for the aforementioned Challenge Grants. The budget assumes that the amount of support given by the County would remain at \$65,792.25 and the amount of support from Bridgewater, Raritan and Somerville would remain at \$10,890.00 per town. The draft final budget will be presented in January for adoption.

### **Information Items**

#### **Preliminary Meeting Dates for 2020**

Mr. Ruggieri presented the preliminary meeting dates for 2020. Mr. Ruggieri noted the meetings would continue to be the third Wednesday of every other month at 5:00 PM; the exception being November 12 which is the 2nd Thursday of November. Staff has confirmed there are no holiday conflicts. Mr. Ruggieri noted this is only a draft and that action will be taken at January's meeting.

**(Strategic Economic Development Activities (Suburban Disadvantage) Phase 2 Update –see “Funding Allocation for Resiliency”)**

#### **Website Design/Development & Implementation Update**

Mr. Ruggieri and Mr. Lane updated everyone regarding the status of the website design/development and implementation project. Mr. Ruggieri has been working diligently to update and shorten the large volume of existing content from the current website and organizing the content into a more readable and sleek form suitable for today's web browsing audience. Mr. Ruggieri has also organized and forwarded a large assortment of pictures to the consultant for possible inclusion in the submenu pages. He noted he may need to resend pictures with a larger resolution. Once the technical issues with the pictures have been resolved, the website will then be formatted for Marketing Committee review; staff will make any final changes and then present the website to the full RCP.

#### **Marketing Update**

Marketing consultant Rich Reitman reported that he has completed the November newsletter, is continuing to add to the email distribution list, issued the press release about the Regional Center Annual Report, posted updates to the existing website, began working on the January newsletter, and is creating a trifold rack brochure that will contain a short description of the Regional Center.

#### **Municipal and Other Reports:**

**Raritan** Planner Angela Knowles reported that for Raritan's creative placemaking grant project a mural is going up on Somerset Street and ten benches are being vinyl wrapped featuring aspects of historic buildings along Somerset Street. For their pedestrian safety enhancement challenge grant the Borough is continuing to update the Circulation Plan and making important connections. They are also getting ideas about Basilone Park including cleaning it up and extending a pathway from Johnson Drive through the park to ultimately connect with the Raritan River Greenway. They also met to select a consultant to work on the Sustainable Economic

Development Plan that is being funded by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA); an announcement about the selected consultant is expected to be made in January.

Noting that tonight's meeting would be Mayor McMullin's last RCP meeting as Mayor of Raritan, Mayor McMullin emphasized the need for others to know how instrumental the Regional Center Partnership has been in addressing many issues impacting Raritan and the Regional Center. In light of this, Mayor McMullin presented a proclamation adopted by the Mayor and Borough Council proclaiming November 7, 2019 "Regional Center Day" and highlighting key projects that have progressed to fruition in Raritan Borough through the collegiate support of the member organizations of the Regional Center Partnership including the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Somerset County Planning Board, the Somerset County Park Commission, and the Somerset County Business Partnership. Everyone responded with a round of applause. Freeholder Gallagher thanked Mayor McMullin for his passion not just for Raritan Borough but also the Regional Center. Raritan Councilman and Mayor-elect Zachary Bray shared that he is looking forward to his role as mayor in the New Year.

**Somerville** Councilwoman Jane Kobuta reported the Somerville transit-oriented development (TOD) near the Somerville Train Station has begun. A proposal for a new restaurant at the corner of East Main and South Bridge Streets has been submitted. The Borough is receiving proposals for the emergency services complex proposed for North Gaston Avenue. The Borough also had a very successful downtown Halloween parade.

**Bridgewater** Councilman Filipe Pedroso expressed a word of congratulations to Somerville for the turnaround of Downtown Somerville into a vibrant downtown destination. Councilman Pedroso added that he looks forward to working with everyone in the New Year.

**Somerset County Business Partnership** Mr. Kerwin shared that the Business Partnership will be celebrating 100 years at the December 9 Annual Meeting where they will be awarding Pfizer, the Chimney Rock Inn, and Somerset County YMCA with Economic Vitality Awards for their contribution to the Somerset County economy. Mr. Kerwin invited everyone to attend.

**Somerset County Park Commission** Mr. Soriano and Freeholder Gallagher reported the ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the opening of the Duke Farms Connector Trail at the Raritan River Greenway. Freeholder Gallagher, Mayor McMullin and Mr. Soriano highlighted certain features about the pathway and entrance to Duke Farms. Mr. Soriano also noted the Park Commission is replacing the old playground at Duke Island Park with a new playground which will feature colors selected by the Brown family in honor of their late son Raymond W. Brown.

### **Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments regarding any items not on the agenda.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.



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**Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County**

**Treasurer's Report for  
September 1 thru October 31, 2019**

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**Business Checking**

9/1/19 thru 10/31/19

Starting Bal. as of 9/1/2019: \$34,083.62

less expenses:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
9/18/19	The Reitman Group	\$1,500.00
9/18/19	<i>J Ruggieri reimbursemt for GoDaddy email acct renewal</i>	\$359.64
10/4/19	Park Circle Technologies	\$5,000.00
10/4/19	NJ Advance Media-RFP ad	\$94.55
10/4/19	NJ Press Media Solutions-RFP ad	\$31.82
10/17/19	NJ Advance Media -ad for audit RFP Addendum No. 1	\$72.85
10/17/19	NJ Press Media Solutions -ad for audit RFP Addendum No. 1	\$29.24
10/23/19	The Reitman Group	\$1,500.00
subtotal of expenses:		<b>\$8,588.10</b>

Deposits 9/1/19 thru 10/31/19

subtotal of deposits **\$0.00**

**Ending Balance (checking)  
after expenses and deposits: \$25,495.52**

Sum of checking and money market  
accounts: **\$230,111.35**

Less total Committed But Not Expend: **\$112,125.00**

Uncommitted Funds **\$117,986.35**

**Money Market Account**

9/1/19 thru 10/31/19

Starting Bal. as of 9/1/2019: \$204,602.15

<u>Date*</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
9/30/2019	interest	\$6.73
10/31/2019	interest	\$6.95
<b>ending bal as of 10/31/19</b>		<b>\$204,615.83</b>

*\*interest earned in the money  
market account is not reported  
by bank until after the end of  
the previous month*

**Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County**

**Treasurer's Report for  
September 1 thru October 31, 2019**

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Table Showing Amounts Committed but Not Expended

<u>Budget</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Project</u> <u>Initiation</u>	<u>Munic</u> <u>or RC</u>	<u>Committed Account Name</u>	<u>Current</u> <u>Balance</u>
2017		BW	(reserved for Bridgewater Creative Placemakg Grant)	\$15,000.00
2017	2018	RT	Raritan Creative Placemaking Challenge Grant	\$7,500.00
2017	2018	RT	Raritan Ped Safety Chall Grant StreetSmart Campaign	\$5,375.00
2017	2018	RT	Raritan Ped Safety Chall Grant Traffic Striping Imp	\$4,250.00
2018	2019	RC	Allocation for Website Upgrade	\$8,500.00
2018		RC	Strategic Marketing Plan & Implementation Activities	\$30,000.00
2018	2019	RC	Strategic Initiatives	\$10,000.00
2018	2019	BW	Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancmt Challenge Grants	\$7,500.00
2018	2019	RT	Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancmt Challenge Grants	\$7,500.00
2018	2019	SV	Phase 2 Pedestrian Safety Enhancmt Challenge Grants	\$7,500.00
2019	2019	RC	Principal Marketing Services (contract Year 2)	\$9,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$112,125.00</b>

**Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County**

**Treasurer's Report for  
September 1 thru October 31, 2019**

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Anticipated Revenue for 2019  
(excluding interest payments from Money Mkt acct)

Total Anticipated Revenue	\$0.00
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**Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County**  
**Treasurer's Report for**  
**September 1 thru October 31, 2019**  
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**Raritan River Rain Barrel Rebate Program**

9/1/19 thru 10/31/19

Starting Bal. as of 9/1/2019:

\$3,777.35

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount of</u> <u>Deductions</u>
10/4/19	<i>rain barrel rebate</i>	\$50.00

subtotal of deductions: \$50.00

**ending balance after deductions** **\$3,727.35**

Deposit (if any) |            |

subtotal of any Deposits \$0.00

**ending Balance after any Deposits:** **\$3,727.35**

**REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP  
OF SOMERSET COUNTY, INC.**

**Business Meeting of  
Thursday, November 7, 2019**

**AGENDA**

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Vice-Chair's Remarks
4. Adoption of Meeting Minutes: September 18, 2019
5. Adoption of Treasurer's Report for November 9, 2017

**ACTION ITEMS**

*"Public comments will be entertained at this time regarding any action item. All comments shall be directed to the Chairman and limited to three (3) minutes per speaker."*

6. Executive Committee Recommendation for the 4 At-Large Private/Institutional Sector Representatives for 2020-2021 Term
7. Nomination Committee Report: Office Nominations and Appointment of Private/Institutional Sector Representative to Executive Committee for 2020-2021 Term
8. Award Year 1 of 24-month Competitive Contract for Auditing and Tax-related Services
9. Funding Allocation for Phase 3 of Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grants
10. Funding Allocation for Resiliency

**PRESENTATION**

11. Draft Preliminary 2020 Budget & Workplan

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

12. Preliminary Meeting Dates for 2020
13. Strategic Economic Development Activities (Suburban Disadvantage) Phase 2 Update

**14. Website Design/Development & Implementation Update**

**15. Marketing Update**

**16. Municipal and Other Reports**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

*Public comments will be entertained at this time regarding any items not on the agenda. All comments shall be directed to the Chairman and limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.*

**Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 5:00 PM in County Engineering Conference Room**

**Potential Funding Allocation out of 2019 Budget and Work Plan**

Potential Funding Allocation for:

- Phase III Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grants \$60,000
- Resiliency Challenge Grants \$45,000

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**REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP OF SOMERSET COUNTY, INC.  
2020 BUDGET & WORK PROGRAM**

**PRELIMINARY DRAFT (revised)\***

**WORK PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

The major objective of the Regional Center Partnership (RCP) in 2020 is to build upon past successes and to continue making the Regional Center of Somerset County a premier location in the state favorable for business investment and to live, work, shop, play, learn and visit. The means to achieve this objective is shaped by the recommendations from the adopted Regional Center Strategic Plan. RCP will continue to work with Somerset County towards advancing the goals and objectives of the Regional Center as a Priority Growth Investment Area through the Supporting Priority Investment in Somerset County Phase III, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and as an important Regional Center endorsed by the State Planning Commission.

The 2020 budget has been prepared assuming that the funding levels will stay the same as in 2019. The amount of support given by the County would remain at \$65,792.25 and the amount of support from Bridgewater, Raritan and Somerville would remain at \$10,890.00 per town.

The 2020 budget allocates up to \$162,534.84 for Regional Center Strategic Plan Implementation initiatives representing \$53, 372.21 more than what was budgeted in 2019 for Plan Implementation. Funding could be utilized to offer a broad and flexible form of Challenge Grants to allow the Regional Center towns to pursue one or multiple projects or initiatives that are consistent with one of the four themes of the Regional Center Strategic Plan; ie., Health and Wellness, Resiliency, Embracing the Raritan River, and Job Growth and Private Sector Investment.

For Public and Business Education, the budget allocates up to \$25,000.00 for public and business education (marketing) activities which is \$2,000.00 more than was allocated in 2019 for this line item. Funding would include regular marketing outreach activities (Annual Achievements Report, press releases, website maintenance, bi-monthly newsletter production and related marketing outreach). The Public & Business Education portion of the budget also contemplates up to \$5,000.00 to support public outreach efforts.

No change is proposed for the amount allotted for Non-profit Legal/Accounting (\$5,000.00).

Additional funding to support priority projects or initiatives consistent with Regional Center goals could become available in the form of grants from non-traditional sources. The State Planning Commission's endorsement of the Somerset County Regional Center should be emphasized when applying for state and federal grants. RCP's standing as a 501(c)3 organization should also be maximized to help leverage additional funding.



**2020 BUDGET**

**1. Regional Center Plan Implementation/Challenge Grant Initiatives \$162,534.84**

Funding could be utilized to offer a broad and flexible form of Challenge Grants to allow the Regional Center towns to pursue one or multiple projects or initiatives that are consistent with one of the four themes of the Regional Center Strategic Plan; ie., Health and Wellness, Resiliency, Embracing the Raritan River, and Job Growth and Private Sector Investment.

**2. Non Profit Legal/Accounting Services \$5,000.00**

For the various costs associated with the operation of a non-profit group.

**3. Public and Business Education Program \$25,000.00**

Funding would be used to perform the regular and annual marketing program activities (Annual Achievements Report, newsletters, press releases, website maintenance, etc.) and to support public outreach efforts.

**Total Budget \$192,655.23**

<b>Anticipated Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 65,792.25</b>	<b>Somerset County</b>
	<b>\$ 10,890.00</b>	<b>Bridgewater</b>
	<b>\$ 10,890.00</b>	<b>Raritan</b>
	<b><u>\$ 10,890.00</u></b>	<b>Somerville</b>
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$ 98,462.25</b>	

**\$ 94,072.59 2019 Carry-Over Funds A/O 11/07/2019\***

**Total: \$192,534.84**

\*revised to reflect the action taken by RCP at 11/7/19 meeting

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## REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

*Proposed for 1-15-2020*

### Meeting Dates

**January 15 @ 5:00 PM**

**March 18 @ 5:00 PM**

**May 20 @ 5:00 PM**

**July 15 @ 5:00 PM**

**September 16 @ 5:00 PM**

**Thursday, November 12 @ 5:00 PM**

**January 20, 2021 @ 5:00 PM**

All meetings will be held at the County Administration Building, 20 Grove Street, Engineering Conference Room, Second Floor, Somerville, NJ unless noted otherwise. Please note that all meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 5:00 PM., unless noted otherwise.

Meetings will be held bi-monthly. Additional meetings may be scheduled as warranted. When needed, these additional meetings will be scheduled on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:00 PM unless noted otherwise. Meeting reminders will be sent out in which any changes or special meetings will be identified.



## RARITAN BOROUGH, NJ

### Retaining 1,000 Jobs in a 2-Square Mile Community

With a major regional operation in the small Borough of Raritan in Somerset County, NJ, LabCorp had been investigating expansion possibilities to include a \$150,000,000 capital investment, the creation of approximately 175 new jobs, and perhaps more importantly, the retention of over 900 jobs.

As local, county, and state officials worked to retain this significant employer, there were some concerns as to whether the Grow NJ program would present a compelling reason to remain and expand at the building given its "suburban" location.

As one of the 500 municipalities in NJ not recognized as a priority for statewide business assistance investments, there was real concern that the LabCorp project would relocate out of the Borough to one of the 65 municipalities "preferred" by the State.

Fortunately, the LabCorp project was of significant size and scope that it qualified under the "mega project" provisions of Grow NJ. As mega project status for the Lab Corp project was not assured, in perhaps a first of its kind example of local collaboration, partners in the education, training, workforce, transportation, and infrastructure fields came together and submitted a "Local Proposal" to the company.





Through efforts of the NJ Economic Development Authority, the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the NJ Business Action Center, Raritan Valley Community College, RideWise, and others including local and county officials, Lab Corp chose to remain in Raritan Borough. This project resulted in (1)

- ✓ The retention of @945 jobs, 50 percent of which have an average annual salary of over \$48,000.
- ✓ The creation of approximately 175 new jobs at the expanded Raritan Borough facility.
- ✓ \$153,000,000 in capital investment including renovation of existing property, new construction, and equipment.
- ✓ Traffic safety and other improvements associated with facility expansion.



## CONCLUSION

Statewide business assistance programs should benefit all areas of our state. While certain advantages may be warranted based on unique local circumstances, job creation and private sector economic investment assistance programs should be based on merit and avoid, as much as possible, creating a competitive environment among our State's communities.

(1) Numbers cited are taken from the June 2017 RFP for Economic Development Incentives as issued on behalf of the Company. As such they may not match actual filings with State or Local officials. No presentation of specific information should be interpreted to be in conflict with officially certified applications or other documentation. The June 2017 RFP is used at formed the basis for a response by economic development and other parties, representing a typical client request seeking business assistance during a site analysis process.



 Somerset County  
Business Partnership





## SOMERVILLE, NJ:

### Transformative Main Street Development

While initially met with resistance from state regulators, the Borough of Somerville successfully leveraged a \$5,000,000 Economic Redevelopment and Growth (ERG) program to reimagine a 1970's strip mall dominating the Borough's downtown.

The result has been a new, vibrant residential area with improved infrastructure, and a mix of retail uses, including a world class supermarket.

What has this redevelopment meant for the Borough of Somerville?

- ✓ Approximately 140 residential units on Main Street that will contribute to economic activity for area merchants, provide housing in proximity to jobs, and reinforce the Borough destination with vibrant amenities; including an Arts District pedestrian Plaza.
- ✓ New retail spaces consistent with the overall character of Main Street that meets the needs of today's retailer.
- ✓ A world class Saker Shop Rite in proximity to residents, and more importantly, senior housing.
- ✓ A new connector road between Main Street and Veterans Memorial Drive that will eventually serve redevelopment of the Somerville Transit Village and Landfill Redevelopment Area.



 Somerset County  
Business Partnership



# Proclamation

## Recognizing The Regional Center and its Member Organizations

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Raritan wishes to honor and give thanks to the many member organizations of the Regional Center;

**WHEREAS**, The Regional Center provides a forum for collegial support for the initiatives of its members.

**WHEREAS**, Raritan Borough has benefited greatly from its participation through the support and guidance received from the members of the Regional Center.

**WHEREAS**, Projects in the Borough of Raritan have progressed as a direct result of the leadership and assistance of our members.

**WHEREAS**, these projects include: First Avenue Jug Handle, Retention of LabCorp, Veterans Park, NJTPA grants for transformational construction and Economic Development Planning, Raritan Crossings Transit Oriented Village and the important work for reauthorization of EDA funding that directly save and create jobs;

**WHEREAS**, Raritan Borough desires to convey special thanks and appreciation the Somerset County Freeholders, Planning Board, Park Commission and Business Partnership for their extraordinary contributions regarding the above projects;

**WHEREAS**, all should know the substantial and tangible contribution of the Regional Center and its members to the residents of Somerset County;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Charles McMullin, Mayor of the Borough of Raritan, on behalf of my colleagues on the Borough Governing Body, hereby recognize, honor and thank the Regional Center and its members. I hereby do declare November 7, 2019 as "Regional Center Day" throughout Raritan Borough in recognition of the Regional Centers service and extraordinary commitment to Raritan Borough as well as Somerville and Bridgewater.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand and Affixed the Seal of the Borough of Raritan This 7<sup>th</sup> Day of November, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Nineteen

Attest:

*Eric M. Colvin*

ERIC M. COLVIN  
BOROUGH CLERK



*Charles M. Mullin*

CHARLES MC MULLIN  
MAYOR