

RESOLUTION 2020-91

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL S-2475 and ASSEMBLY BILL A-3971 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE “CORONAVIRUS RELIEF BONDS” BY MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES

WHEREAS, A-3971, which authorizes the issuance of “coronavirus relief bonds” by municipalities and counties and is sponsored by Assemblyman Dan Benson, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin and Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo, was approved by the New Jersey General Assembly on May 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Senate companion, S-2475, sponsored by Senators Troy Singleton and Vin Gopal was introduced on May 11 and awaits Senate committee action; and

WHEREAS, municipalities and counties are experiencing unprecedented financial challenges, including significant loss of and unanticipated expenses because of the on-going COVID-19 global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, these fiscal consequences of the pandemic and the ongoing COVID-19 State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency, are likely to continue and further impact Borough of Mount Arlington in the County of Morris; and

WHEREAS, the current public health emergency led to shuttering of businesses, construction, courts, and schools; and

WHEREAS, local governments are experiencing a record decline in revenue from permitting fees, licensing fees, parking revenue, hotel/motel occupancy taxes, and court fines at the same time experiencing income losses due to declining returns on investments with the uncertainty of property tax collection and state aid revenues in the horizon; and

WHEREAS, Borough of Mount Arlington in the County of Morris budget has significant fixed statutory expenses and provides essential public services; and

WHEREAS, the cost of providing many essential services is likely to increase as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic for an extended period afterwards; and

WHEREAS, A-3971 and S-2475 would allow counties and municipalities to borrow moneys through the issuance of bonds and notes to cover the revenue shortfalls and additional costs that are directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic and pay that money back over a ten year period; and

WHEREAS, the A-3971 and S-2475 would also require a local government to thoroughly investigate and apply for financial assistance that may be available to it from the federal government, the State and other sources due to revenue shortfalls and expenditures because of the pandemic, prior to authorizing the issuance of the “coronavirus relief bonds”; and

WHEREAS, under A-3971 and S-2475 a municipality may use the proceeds from the sale and issuance of the coronavirus relief bonds to address a revenue shortfall experienced by the municipality and cover the cost of unanticipated expenses that are directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic and which occurred within 24 months after the end of the Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, A-3971 and S-2475 is not a one size fits all solution that provides the appropriate financial assistance to Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris to help address all revenue shortfalls and expenditures directly attributable to this pandemic; and

WHEREAS, without this legislation, to address the revenue shortfall some municipalities would be required to take extreme measures that would gut local government eliminating critical public service. Local governments need the flexibility that A-3971 and S-2575 provides to limit the impact on property taxpayers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Borough of Mount Arlington in the County of Morris strongly supports the swift passage and signing into law A-3971 and S-2475 , which will provide flexibility and offer relief to municipalities and counties to address their revenue shortfalls and expenditures directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that this resolution of support be sent to the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Governor Phil Murphy, Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y. Oliver, Senator Anthony M. Bucco Speaker of the General Assembly Craig J. Coughlin, Assemblyman Brian Bergen, Senate President Senator Stephen M. Sweeney, Assemblywoman Aura Dunn, League of Municipalities.

I HEREBY CERTIFY this to be a true and correct Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, and adopted on June 2, 2020.


L. Dwyer
Acting Borough Clerk

June 2 2020