

Hunterdon Board Director Calls For American Rescue Funds To Help Local Small Businesses

Hunterdon County Board of Commissioners Director Susan J. Soloway, at the May 4th Board meeting, called for a program to help county small businesses in their recovery and get people back to their jobs be made a priority for the American Rescue federal funds earmarked for Hunterdon County.

Soloway said, “The Board’s Committee charged with recommending the use of the American Rescue funds should give priority consideration to the creation of a carefully constructed program to help Hunterdon County small businesses in their recovery and get people back to their jobs, once the rules come in from Washington.

I think we all personally know of businesses and their employees that have been badly hurt by being closed down.”

Hunterdon County has been advised that \$12 million is allocated for the county this year, which is designated for covering pandemic costs and assisting businesses and others. Regulations on the use of funds have not yet been issued by the U.S. Treasury.

Soloway noted, “The early information on use of the American Rescue funds, provided by the National Association of Counties, included a statement that funds could be used to address the economic effects of the pandemic, including aid to small businesses and impacted industries, such as tourism and hospitality.

This is good news as the County was not a designated recipient of funds from the federal CARES Act last year, and as such was not able to provide financial assistance to our hard pressed businesses that suffered from the state’s lock down.”

Commissioners Matt Holt and Shaun C. Van Doren, members of the Budget Committee, have been designated to review and recommend potential uses of American Rescue Fund monies. Both Commissioners indicated supporting small businesses will be a priority.

“We are in unprecedeted times that call for unprecedeted action,” Director Soloway concluded.