

**TOWNSHIP OF VERONA  
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION No. 2021-135**

A motion was made by Councilman Tamburro; seconded by Councilwoman Holland that the following resolution be adopted:

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF NJ DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
GRANT - ANN STREET, CYPRESS STREET AND STEVEN AVENUE**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Verona has submitted and subsequently been selected to receive funding from the New Jersey Department of Transportation's (NJDOT) Fiscal Year 2020 Municipal Aid Program for the Reconstruction of Ann Street, Cypress Avenue and Steven Avenue in the amount of \$525,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township was notified of this award by letter from the Department of Transportation on November 21, 2019, then once again on February 13, 2020 with the executed agreements which were approved by the Department; and

**WHEREAS**, by its terms the "construction contract must be awarded by the municipality within 24 months from the date of the grant notification" which in this case is November 21, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, based upon the pandemic the Township has fallen behind on the schedule construction contract and for the following reasons requires an extension; and

**WHEREAS**, Verona has experienced a severe financial and employment-staffing shortage as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, these problems forced a delay in all of the capital projects which were awarded 2019 PY grants by both the NJDOT and the County of Essex through their Community Development Grant Block Program; and

**WHEREAS**, during the state of emergency declared by the Governor there were no heavy highway construction companies operating since most of their employees were on a temporary layoff and as a result all of our anticipated work originally planned for the 2019-20 construction season was forced to wait until the health care crisis started to ease and the work restrictions were lifted; and

**WHEREAS**, this project was further delayed because early this year PSE&G began replacing all of its high pressure gas mains and they continue to do this work which must be complete before the Township's road work; and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of the Township is to wait for the completion of the work being performed by PSE&G then bid and award the extensive sanitary sewer and water main work which is required but not included within the Township's design documents sent to the NJDOT for review and approval by our design engineer Beckmeyer Engineering.


**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Verona that based upon the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the pandemic, the Governors declaration of state of emergency (*N.J.A.C. 16:20B-6.2(c)1v*), and the resulting impact on all construction projects, followed by the need for PSE&G to replace the gas mains (*N.J.A.C. 16:20B-6.2(c)1.iii*), the Township of Verona hereby requests for a six month extension of their contract/agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation in regards to the reconstruction and to bid and award the construction contract by May 21, 2022.

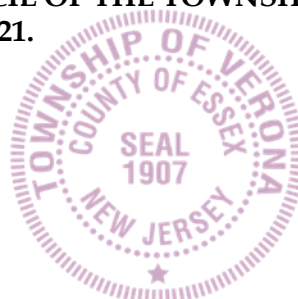
**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Holland, Tamburro, McEvoy, McGrath, Roman

**NAYS:**

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 18, 2021.**

  
**JENNIFER KIERNAN  
MUNICIPAL CLERK**



MAYOR  
ALEX ROMAN  
DEPUTY MAYOR  
CHRISTINE McGRATH  
COUNCILMEMBERS  
JACK McEVOY  
CYNTHIA L. M. HOLLAND  
CHRISTOPHER H. TAMBURRO

**TOWNSHIP OF VERONA**  
COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY



TOWNSHIP MANAGER  
MATTHEW CAVALLO  
TOWNSHIP CLERK  
JENNIFER KIERNAN  
TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY  
BRIAN J. ALOIA, ESQ.

VERONA COMMUNITY CENTER  
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
10 COMMERCE COURT  
VERONA, NEW JERSEY 07044

October 15, 2021

Ms. Eileen Schack  
NJ Department of Transportation  
Bureau of Local Aid – District 2  
153 Halsey Street  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Re: Reconstruction of Ann St., Cypress Ave. and Steven Ave.  
Township of Verona, Essex County, NJ  
MA 2020 Municipal Aid Program

Dear Ms. Schack,

As you know the Township of Verona has submitted and subsequently been selected to receive funding from the New Jersey Department of Transportation's (NJDOT) MA 2020 Municipal Aid Program for the Reconstruction of Ann Street, Cypress Avenue and Steven Avenue in the amount of \$525,000.00.

The Township was notified of this award by letter from the Department of Transportation on November 21, 2019, then once again on February 13, 2020 with the executed agreements which were approved by the Department. One of requirements contained in that agreement required that "The construction contract must be awarded by the municipality within 24 months from the date of the grant notification. Failure to make an award by November 21, 2021 or to comply with the requirements of the Municipal Aid Regulations 16:20B and the Terms and Conditions of Grant Agreement for State Aid Counties and Municipalities will jeopardize the use of State fund on this project." This letter is in regards to that requirement and the Townships supplication for a request of an extension of time to the contract for six months which is May 21<sup>st</sup> 2022 or what the Department shall deem as reasonable. Hopefully the following shall provide a brief understanding of how we arrived to be in this current position.

Verona, like most of the Municipalities in the State had experienced a severe financial and employment-staffing shortage as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. These initial problems had forced a delay in all of the capital projects which were awarded 2019 PY grants by both the NJDOT and the County of Essex through their Community Development Grant Block Program. During the declaration of state of emergency by the Governor of New Jersey there were no heavy highway construction companies operating since most of their employees were on a temporary layoff and as a result all of our anticipated work originally planned for the 2019-20 construction season was now forced to wait until the health care crisis had started to ease which did not occur until the middle of 2020. By the early fall of 2020 we started surveying, designing then bid and award our delayed projects, one of which was a project for which we also had been awarded funding by the NJDOT, that project was the reconstruction of Lynwood Road and at present that project is 90% complete. We are only awaiting for the planting of the shade trees in accordance with DOT specifications regarding planting season.

The other reason which we have been delayed in the bidding and awarding of a contract for the Reconstruction of Ann St., Cypress Ave. and Steven Avenue is this, PSE&G had contacted my office back in February of 2021 to request a copy of the Townships scheduled work for the year as part of their annual request, it was during this time

we learned that PSE&G was looking to replace all of the high pressure gas mains in the entire development during the summer/fall of 2022. We had scheduled a meeting between their Asset Management Team and Township officials to let them know that if they wanted to continue with their project that it must be done the summer/fall of 2021 and not 2022 since their work cannot be subsequent to our roadway reconstruction of the development. PSE&G understood this and has since been out on site removing and replacing the gas mains, this work continues as of the date of this letter.

The goal of the Township was to wait for the completion of the work being performed by PSE&G then bid and award the extensive sanitary sewer and water main work which is required but not included with our design documents which was sent to the NJDOT for review and approval by our design engineer Beckmeyer Engineering. I believe the Department had sent a review letter dated October 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 to Mr. Beckmeyer's office requesting changes and additional information, to which shall be resubmitted back the Department for review.

In closing, as you can see our MA 2020 Project of Ann, Cypress and Steven had suffered an initial setback due to the unforeseen circumstances surrounding the pandemic and the Governors declaration of state of emergency and how that in turn had an effect on all construction projects, we then were faced with the need for PSE&G to replace the gas mains and us having to mandate to them to have their work done in 2021 not 2022 as they had originally planned. This sequence of events has led us to the dilemma for which we now find ourselves.

The plan from here is for PSE&G to complete their work by November of 2021, hopefully by then our design plans and specifications are approved by the NJDOT and we can issue them for public bid and then award in December 2021 or January of 2022. I would anticipate a start date for construction mid to late spring of 2022. We deeply regret the need to ask for an extension of our agreement but feel that there have been a number of mitigating circumstances which support our claim.

The Township of Verona respectfully requests for a six month extension of their contract/agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation in regards to the reconstruction of Ann St., Cypress Ave. and Steven Ave. at this time. The contract shall be bid and awarded by May 21<sup>st</sup> 2022, which is six months from the date of the original agreement with the Department.

Please feel free to contact my office should you require any additional information,

Respectfully,

*Michael C. DeCarlo*

Michael C. DeCarlo  
Engineering Manager

Cc. Mr. Matthew Cavallo MPA, CPM  
Mr. Glenn Beckmeyer, PE