

PRESS RELEASE

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WOODBINE MAKES APPLICATION TO USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT SEARCH PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000

Woodbine—Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that the Borough of Woodbine has made application to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development SEARCH program in the amount of \$30,000.

This funding would be used for Engineering and Financial Planning Evaluations in conjunction with the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority's Professional Engineering Services Study of Solutions for Treatment and Disposal of Leachate From the CMCMUA's Sanitary landfill, which is located in Woodbine.

The CMCMUA's RFP is concerned with identifying the most efficient and cost-effective method of replacing the current tanker transport of leachate from the on-site storage facilities to the CMCMUA's Seven Mile Beach/Middle Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, a distance of 15 miles. This process presently requires an average of eighteen (18) tanker trucks of leachate to be transported to the WWTP daily.

If approved by USDA, this grant will enable the Borough of Woodbine to participate in the CMCMUA's RFP and design study process. This study will evaluate how residents and businesses of the Borough might benefit through the construction of a sanitary sewage collection system to replace the current septic systems throughout Woodbine and the role of the Woodbine Wastewater Treatment Plant as a primary or secondary treatment facility.

The proposed use of the USDA/Rural Development SEARCH funding would be to study the options that could eliminate onsite septic systems serving residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial uses, both existing and proposed. Only through sanitary sewage expansion can Woodbine improve the quality of municipal facilities, expand the commercial/industrial base of the Borough, reduce the tax burden on the residential property owners and preserve its high quality of life standards. The Borough is also seeking a matching grant of \$20,000 from the Pinelands Commission.

"This would bring us one more step closer to bringing sewer to our Downtown area," added Mayor Pikolycky. "Without the support and interest of these agencies, this would not be feasible."