

## RESOLUTION

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN AMENDMENT EXTENDING THE TIMEFRAME OF THE CONSOLIDATION STUDY IN THE APPLICATION TO LOCAL FINANCE BOARD OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING A JOINT CONSOLIDATION STUDY COMMISSION FOR THE BOROUGH OF CHESTER AND THE TOWNSHIP OF CHESTER IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:65-25 ET SEQ.**

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Consolidation Study Commission of the Borough of Chester and the Township of Chester was created in December of 2008 and has been carrying out its duties to this date; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Consolidation Study Commission has accepted the reports of its consultant, Center for Government Research, including the Baseline Report: Municipal Services & Financial Overview and the Consolidation Options & Impacts; and,

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs has presented its Report on Fiscal Impacts of the Consolidation; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Consolidation Study Commission has considered the time constraints on conducting public discourse on the options and on making decisions that must be reached in order to adopt its final recommendations by July of 2010, as specified in the initial application to the New Jersey Local Finance Board; and,

**WHEREAS**, the economic distress that is affecting the State of New Jersey and its constituent local governments has caused reductions in the state budget that threaten the funding of extraordinary administrative and operating expenses incurred in the first 2 years of the consolidation; and,

**WHEREAS**, the reductions in the state budget also threaten the funding of annual property tax relief to owners of any residential property or residential tenants, who might experience a municipal or school district purposes real property tax increase in the first tax year following the consolidation of the Borough of Chester and the Township of Chester.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Joint Consolidation Study Commission of the Borough of Chester and the Township of Chester seek an extension to the timeframe granted by the New Jersey Local Finance Board in the application of December 2008 as authorized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-25(d)(3); and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Joint Consolidation Study Commission of the Borough of Chester and the Township of Chester propose the following revised timeframe; and,

Activity	Original Date	Revised Date
Public Discourse	June 2010	February 2011
Determine Final Form of the Study	July 2010	April 2011
Make Commission Recommendations	July 2010	June 2011

Governing Bodies Vote for a Referendum	August 2010	August 2011
Morris County Prepares Referendum	September 2010	September 2011
Binding Referendum Held	November 2010	November 2011

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Consolidation Study Commission of the Borough of Chester and the Township of Chester hereby approve the submission of this request to the Local Finance Board, request the Board's approval of same, and that the Commission secretary is directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Board.