PRESS RELEASE

**WOODBINE PASSES RESOLUTION OBJECTION TO PINELANDS PLAN AMENDMENTS ON SEPTIC SYSTEM MANAGEMENT**

**Woodbine—**Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that the Borough of Woodbine, at their August 21 Council meeting, passed a resolution entitled "A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODBINE OBJECTING TO THE PINELANDS COMMISSION IMPOSING A SEPTIC SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN" objecting to new proposed amendments to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan relating to the management program for on-site wastewater treatment systems which would mandate that  all property owners with septic systems  have them inspected and pumped once every three (3) years. These amendments make requirements for that are over and above those required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and would require an additional expense to both property owners and municipalities.

At the urging of the Pinelands Municipal Council, NJDEP is not requiring any mandatory maintenance as part of their six-year update of Wastewater Management plans.  They are only asking municipalities or the County to conduct a basic inventory of the existing systems and provide notifications to property owners as to the need to pump and maintain their systems.  This was determined to be the best course of action due to economic conditions.

"The Borough of Woodbine is 97% in the Pinelands, with 3% in CAFRA.  This creates practical difficulties in adopting a mandatory maintenance program that is not required Statewide.  More than half of the other Pinelands Area Municipalities are also under a split jurisdiction.  Thus, the proposed regulations would not impact each municipality or each property owner equally," noted Mayor Pikolycky. "Being Vice-Chair of the Pinelands Municipal Council, I want to mention that the Council took similar action concerning these regulations as did a number of other Pinelands communities. We hope that the Pinelands Commission will follow NJDEP in tabling these requirements for the duration."

*(Resolution attached)*