#### **OFFICIAL STATEMENT DATED JULY 31, 2018**

#### NEW ISSUE BOOK-ENTRY ONLY

In the opinion of DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole & Giblin, LLP, Bond Counsel, assuming continuing compliance by the Township of River Vale (the "Township") with certain covenants described herein, under current law, interest on the Notes is not includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference under Section 57 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("Code"), for purposes of computing the federal alternative minimum tax. No opinion is expressed regarding other federal tax consequences arising with respect to the Notes. Further, in the opinion of Bond Counsel, under current law interest on the Notes and any gain on the sale thereof are not includable as gross income under the New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act. See "TAX MATTERS" herein.

#### \$9,375,000 BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES Consisting of \$7,858,669 GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES And \$1,516,331 GOLF COURSE UTILITY BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY (BANK-QUALIFIED)

#### Dated: Date of Delivery

Due: August 9, 2019

The \$9,375,000 aggregate principal amount of Bond Anticipation Notes (the "Notes"), consisting of \$7,858,669 General Improvement Bond Anticipation Notes and \$1,516,331 Golf Course Utility Bond Anticipation Notes are general obligations of the Township of River Vale, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the "Township"), and are secured by a pledge of the full faith and credit of the Township for payment of the principal thereof and interest thereon. The Notes are payable, if not paid from other sources, from ad valorem taxes which may be assessed upon all the taxable property within the Township without limitation as to rate or amount.

The Notes shall be issued in the form of one certificate in the aggregate principal amount of the Notes of each series and will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as registered owner and nominee of The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ("DTC"), which will maintain a book-entry system for recording ownership interests of DTC Participants. Individual purchases of the beneficial ownership interests in the Notes may be in book-entry from only on the records of DTC and its Participants and only in the principal amount of \$1,000 or any integral multiple thereof with a minimum of \$5,000 required. Beneficial Owners of the Notes will not receive certificates representing their interests in the Notes. As long as Cede & Co., and not the Beneficial Owners of the Notes. *See* "BOOK-ENTRY ONLY SYSTEM" herein.

Interest on the Notes will be payable at maturity on August 9, 2019. Principal and interest on the Notes will be paid to DTC by the Township. Interest on the Notes is calculated on the basis of twelve (12) thirty (30) day months in a three hundred sixty (360) day year. The Notes are not subject to redemption prior to maturity.

Interest <u>Rate</u>	Yield	<u>CUSIP</u>
3.00%	1.60%	768457KP7

The Notes are offered when, as and if issued and delivered to the Purchaser, subject to prior sale, to withdrawal or modification of the offer without notice and to approval of legality by the law firm of DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole & Giblin, LLP, Teaneck, New Jersey, and certain other conditions described herein. It is expected that the Notes will be available for delivery to DTC on or about August 9, 2018.

# **Oppenheimer & Co.**

#### **NOT RATED**

#### TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

#### MAYOR

Glen Jasionowski

## **TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**

Mark Bromberg, Council President Paul J. Criscuolo, Council Vice-President Ari Ben-Yishay John Donovan Denise Sieg

#### **TOWNSHIP CLERK**

Karen Campanelli

## **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Gennaro Rotella

## TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

Silvana D. Raso, Esq. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey

#### **TOWNSHIP AUDITOR**

Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP Fair Lawn, New Jersey

## MUNICIPAL ADVISOR

Phoenix Advisors, LLC Bordentown, New Jersey

## **BOND COUNSEL**

DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole & Giblin, LLP Teaneck, New Jersey No broker, dealer, salesperson or other person has been authorized by the Township to give any information or to make any representations with respect to the Notes other than those contained in this Official Statement, and, if given or made, such other information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the Township. The information contained herein has been obtained from the Township, DTC and other sources which are believed to be reliable; however, such information is not guaranteed as to accuracy or completeness, and is not to be construed as a representation or warranty of the Township. The information and expressions of opinion herein are subject to change without notice and neither the delivery of this Official Statement nor any sale made hereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in any of the information herein since the date hereof, or the date as of which such information is given, if earlier.

References in this Official Statement to laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, resolutions, agreements, reports and documents do not purport to be comprehensive or definitive. All references to such documents are qualified in their entirety by reference to the particular document, the full text of which may contain qualifications of and exceptions to statements made herein, and copies of which may be inspected at the offices of the Township during normal business hours.

For purposes of compliance with Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities and Exchange Commission, this document, as the same may be supplemented or amended by the Township from time to time (collectively, the "Official Statement"), may be treated as a "Final Official Statement" with respect to the Notes described herein that is deemed final as of the date hereof (or of any such supplement or amendment) by the Township.

This Official Statement does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale of the Notes in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for any person to make such an offer, solicitation or sale. No dealer, broker, salesman or other person has been authorized to give any information or to make any representation other than as contained in this Official Statement. If given or made, such other information or representation must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the Township or the Purchaser. This Official Statement is submitted in connection with the sale of the securities referred to herein and may not be reproduced or used in whole or in part for any other purpose.

DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole & Giblin, LLP, has not participated in the preparation of the financial statements or statistical information contained in this official statement, nor has it verified the accuracy, completeness, or fairness thereof, and accordingly, express no opinion with respect thereto.

IN CONNECTION WITH THIS OFFERING, THE PURCHASER MAY OVERALLOT OR EFFECT TRANSACTIONS WHICH STABILIZE OR MAINTAIN THE MARKET PRICE OF THE NOTES AT LEVELS ABOVE THOSE WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE PREVAIL IN THE OPEN MARKET. SUCH STABILIZING, IF COMMENCED, MAY BE DISCONTINUED AT ANY TIME.

IN MAKING AN INVESTMENT DECISION, INVESTORS MUST RELY ON THEIR OWN EXAMINATION OF THE TOWNSHIP AND THE TERMS OF THE OFFERING, INCLUDING THE MERITS AND RISKS INVOLVED. THESE SECURITIES HAVE NOT BEEN RECOMMENDED BY ANY FEDERAL OR STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION OR REGULATORY AUTHORITY. FURTHERMORE, THE FOREGOING AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT CONFIRMED THE ACCURACY OR DETERMINED THE ADEQUACY OF THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

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#### **OFFICIAL STATEMENT**

#### **OF THE**

## TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY

## \$9,375,000 BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES Consisting of \$7,858,669 GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES and \$1,516,331 GOLF COURSE UTILITY BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This Official Statement (the "Official Statement") which includes the cover page and the appendices attached hereto, has been prepared by the Township of River Vale (the "Township"), in the County of Bergen (the "County"), State of New Jersey (the "State"), to provide certain information in connection with the sale and issuance by the Township of its \$9,375,000 Bond Anticipation Notes consisting of \$7,858,669 General Improvement Bond Anticipation Notes (the "General Notes") and \$1,516,331 Golf Course Utility Bond Anticipation Notes (the "Golf Course Notes" and together with the General Notes, the "Notes"), dated the date of delivery thereof.

This Official Statement is "deemed final", as of its date, within the meaning of Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Rule 15c2-12").

#### THE NOTES

#### **General Description**

The Notes shall be dated and shall bear interest from their date of delivery and shall mature on August 9, 2019. The Notes shall bear interest at the rate set forth on the cover hereof, which interest is payable on August 9, 2019. The Notes will be issued as fully registered notes in book-entry only form and when issued, will be registered in the name of and held by Cede & Co., as nominee of The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ("DTC"). DTC will act as Securities Depository for the Notes. Purchases of beneficial interests in the Notes will be made in book-entry only form, without certificates, in denominations of \$1,000 or any integral multiple thereof, with a minimum purchase of \$5,000 required. Under certain circumstances, such beneficial interests in the Notes are exchangeable for one or more fully registered Note certificates in authorized denominations.

The Note certificates will be on deposit with DTC. DTC will be responsible for maintaining a book-entry system for recording the interests of its Direct Participants and transfers of the interests among its Direct Participants. The Direct Participants and Indirect Participants will be responsible for maintaining records regarding the beneficial ownership interests in the Notes on behalf of the individual purchasers. Individual purchasers of the Notes will not receive certificates representing their beneficial ownership interests in the Notes, but each book-entry owner will receive a credit balance on the books of its nominee, and this credit balance will be confirmed by an initial transaction statement stating the details of the Notes purchased. So long as DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., is the registered owner of the Notes, payments of the principal of and interest on the Notes will be made by the Township or a duly designated paying agent directly to DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., which will in turn remit such payments to the Beneficial owners of the Notes.

## **Prior Redemption**

The Notes are not subject to redemption prior to their stated maturity.

#### **BOOK-ENTRY ONLY SYSTEM**

The description which follows of the procedures and recordkeeping with respect to beneficial ownership interest in the Notes, payment of principal and interest and other payments on the Notes to Direct and Indirect Participants (defined below) or Beneficial Owners (defined below), confirmation and transfer of beneficial ownership interests in the Notes and other related transactions by and between DTC, Direct Participants and Beneficial Owners, is based on certain information furnished by DTC to the Township. Accordingly, the Township does not make any representations as to the completeness or accuracy of such information.

DTC will act as securities depository for the Notes. The Notes will be issued as fully-registered notes registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC's partnership nominee) or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One fully-registered Note certificate will be issued for each series of the Notes, in the aggregate principal amount of such series, and will be deposited with DTC.

DTC, the world's largest depository, is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for over 2.2 million issues of U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues, and money market instruments from over 100 countries that DTC's participants ("Direct Participants") deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among Direct Participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between Direct Participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation ("DTCC"). DTCC, in turn, is owned by a number of Direct Participants of DTC and Members of the National Securities Clearing Corporation, Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, and Emerging Markets Clearing Corporation (NSCC, FICC, and EMCC, also subsidiaries of DTCC), as well as by the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the American Stock Exchange LLC, and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly ("Indirect Participants"). DTC has a Standard & Poor's rating of AA+. The DTC Rules applicable to its Participants are on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. More information about DTC can be found at www.dtc.com and www.dtc.org.

Purchases of the Notes under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Notes on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of the Note ("Beneficial Owner") is in turn to be recorded on the Direct and Indirect Participants' records. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase. Beneficial Owners are, however, expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the Direct or Indirect Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the Notes are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Direct and Indirect Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in the Notes, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Notes is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all Notes deposited by Direct Participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co., or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of Notes with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other DTC nominee do not effect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the Notes; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Notes are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Direct and Indirect Participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Beneficial Owners of Notes may wish to take certain steps to augment the transmission to them of notices of significant events with respect to the Notes, such as redemptions, tenders, defaults, and proposed amendments to the Note documents. For example, Beneficial Owners of Notes may wish to ascertain that the nominee holding the Notes for their benefit has agreed to obtain and transmit notices to Beneficial Owners. In the alternative, Beneficial Owners may wish to provide their names and addresses to the registrar and request that copies of notices be provided directly to them.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (nor any other DTC nominee) will consent or vote with respect to Notes unless authorized by a Direct Participant in accordance with DTC's Procedures. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an Omnibus Proxy to the Township as soon as possible after the record date. The Omnibus Proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants to whose accounts Notes are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the Omnibus Proxy).

Payments on the Notes will be made to Cede & Co., or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from the Paying Agent, on payable date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of such Participant and not of DTC nor its nominee, the Township as Paying Agent, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is the responsibility of the Paying Agent, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants will be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners will be the responsibility of Direct and Indirect Participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as depository with respect to the Notes at any time by giving reasonable notice to the Township as Paying Agent. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor depository is not obtained, note certificates will be printed and delivered.

The Township may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, note certificates will be printed and delivered.

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources that the Township believes to be reliable, but the Township takes no responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

NEITHER THE TOWNSHIP NOR THE PAYING AGENT WILL HAVE ANY RESPONSIBILITY OR OBLIGATION TO SUCH DTC PARTICIPANTS OR THE PERSONS FOR WHOM THEY ACT AS NOMINEES WITH RESPECT TO THE PAYMENTS TO OR PROVIDING OF NOTICE FOR THE DTC PARTICIPANTS, OR THE INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS, OR BENEFICIAL OWNERS.

SO LONG AS CEDE & CO. IS THE REGISTERED OWNER OF THE NOTES, AS NOMINEE OF DTC, REFERENCES HEREIN TO THE NOTEHOLDERS OR REGISTERED OWNERS OF THE NOTES (OTHER THAN UNDER THE CAPTION "TAX MATTERS") SHALL MEAN CEDE & CO. AND SHALL NOT MEAN THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF THE NOTES.

#### **Discontinuation of Book-Entry Only System**

If the Township, in its sole discretion, determines that DTC is not capable of discharging its duties, or if DTC discontinues providing its services with respect to the Notes at any time, the Township will attempt to locate another qualified Securities Depository. If the Township fails to find such Securities Depository, or if the Township determines, in its sole discretion, that it is in the best interest of the Township or that the interest of the Beneficial Owners might be adversely affected if the book-entry only system of transfer is continued (the Township undertakes no obligation to make an investigation to determine the occurrence of any events that would permit it to make such determination) the Township shall notify DTC of the termination of the book-entry only system.

In the event that the book-entry only system for the Notes is discontinued upon receipt of the Note certificates from DTC and the Participant information, the Township will authenticate (or cause to be authenticated) and deliver definitive Notes to the holders thereof, and the principal of and interest on the Notes will be payable and the Notes may thereafter be transferred or exchanged in the manner described in the note certificates so provided.

## AUTHORIZATION AND PURPOSE OF THE NOTES

The Notes have been authorized and are issued pursuant to the laws of the State, including the Local Bond Law, Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes, as amended (the "Local Bond Law"), and the various bond ordinances of the Township, as set forth below. The bond ordinances were published in full or by summary after their final adoption along with the statement that the twenty (20) day period of limitation within which a suit, action or proceeding questioning the validity of such bond ordinances could be commenced began to run from the date of the first publication of such statement. The Local Bond Law provides, that after issuance, all obligations shall be conclusively presumed to be fully authorized and issued by all laws of the State, and all persons shall be estopped from questioning their sale, execution or delivery by the Township.

The Notes are being issued to (i) currently refund \$7,090,341 aggregate principal amount of the Township's outstanding Bond Anticipation Notes maturing August 10, 2018; (ii) provide \$2,284,659 of additional monies for the projects described below; and (iii) pay costs and expenses incidental to the issuance of the delivery of the Notes.

Ord #	Description	Amount	
General Notes			
239-2010	Acquisition of Property - Mesker Site	\$	3,631,810
301-2015	Various Capital Improvements	1,398,988	
311-2016	Various Capital Improvements	898,794	
323-2017	Various Capital Improvements		898,975
338-2018	Various Capital Improvements		1,030,102
	Total General Notes		7,858,669
<b>Golf Course Notes</b>			
302-2015	Various Golf Course Improvements		262,331
339-2018	Various Golf Course Improvements		1,254,000
	Total Golf Course Notes		1,516,331
	Total Notes	\$	9,375,000

#### SECURITY AND SOURCE OF PAYMENT

The Notes are general obligations of the Township, and the Township has pledged its full faith and credit for the payment of the principal of and the interest on the Notes. The Notes are direct obligations of the Township and, to the extent that other monies are not available, the Township is required by law to levy <u>ad valorem</u> taxes upon all the real property taxable within the Township for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes without limitation as to rate or amount.

#### **NO DEFAULT**

The Township has never defaulted in the payment of any bonds or notes, nor are any payments of principal of or interest on the Township's indebtedness past due.

## CERTAIN STATUTORY PROVISIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT

#### Local Bond Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:2-1 et seq.)

The Local Bond Law governs the issuance of bonds and notes to finance certain municipal capital expenditures. Among its provisions are requirements that bonds must mature within the statutory period of usefulness of the projects bonded and that bonds be retired in serial installments. A 5% cash down payment is generally required to be appropriated for the financing of expenditures for municipal purposes for which bonds are authorized. All bonds and notes issued by the Township are general full faith and credit obligations.

#### The Local Fiscal Affairs Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:5-1 et seq.)

This law regulates the non-budgetary financial activities of local governments. An annual, independent audit of the local unit's accounts for the previous year must be performed by a licensed Registered Municipal Accountant. The audit, conforming to the Division of Local Government Services "Requirements of Audit," includes recommendations for improvement of the local unit's financial procedures and must be filed with the Director within six months after the close of the fiscal year. A synopsis of the audit report, together with all recommendations made, must be published in a local newspaper within 30 days of its completion.

The chief financial officer of every local unit must file annually with the Director a verified statement of financial condition of the local unit and all constituent boards, agencies or commissions.

The annual audit report is filed with the Township Clerk and is available for review during business hours.

## **Debt Limits**

The authorized bonded indebtedness of a municipality in the State of New Jersey is limited by statute, subject to the exceptions noted below, to an amount equal to 3-1/2% of its equalized valuation basis. The equalized valuation basis of the municipality is set by statute as the average for the last three years of the equalized value of all taxable real property and improvements and certain class II railroad property within its boundaries as annually determined by the State Board of Taxation.

Certain categories of debt are permitted by statute to be deducted for purposes of computing the statutory debt limit.

#### **Exceptions to Debt Limits-Extensions of Credit**

The debt limit of the Township may be exceeded with the approval of the Local Finance Board, in the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, a State regulatory agency (the "Board"). If all or any part of a proposed debt authorization would exceed its debt limit, the Township must apply to the Board for an extension of credit. If the Board determines that a proposed debt authorization would not materially impair the ability of the Township to meet its obligations or to provide essential services, or makes other statutory determinations, approval is granted. In addition to the aforesaid, debt in excess of the debt limit may be issued without the approval of the Board to fund certain bonds and notes, for self-liquidating purposes and, in each fiscal year, in an amount not exceeding two-thirds of the amount budgeted in such fiscal year for the retirement of outstanding obligations (exclusive of obligations issued for utility or assessment purposes).

#### **Short-Term Financing**

The Township may issue bond anticipation notes to temporarily finance capital improvements. Bond anticipation notes, which are general obligations of the Township, may be issued for a period not exceeding one year. Generally, bond anticipation notes may not be outstanding longer than 10 years. Additionally, beginning in the third year, the amount of outstanding notes that may be renewed is decreased by not less than the minimum amount required for the first year principal payment of bonds in anticipation of which such notes are issued.

#### School Debt Subject to Voter Approval

State Law permits the school district, upon approval of the voters, to authorize school district debt, including, debt in excess of its independent debt limit by using the available borrowing capacity of the Township. If such debt is in excess of the school district debt limit and the remaining borrowing capacity of the Township, the State Commissioner of Education and the Local Finance Board must approve the proposed debt authorization before it is submitted to the voters.

#### MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Pursuant to the Local Budget Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1 et seq.) the Township is required to have a balanced budget in which debt service is included in full for each fiscal year.

#### The Local Budget Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1 et seq.)

The foundation of the New Jersey local finance system is the annual cash basis budget. The Township must adopt an operating budget in the form required by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey (the "Division"). Items of revenue and appropriation are regulated by law and must be certified by the Director of the Division (the "Director") prior to final adoption of the budget. The Local Budget Law requires each local unit to appropriate sufficient funds for payment of current debt service and the Director is required to review the adequacy of such appropriations, among others, for certification.

The Director has no authority over individual operating appropriations, unless a specific amount is required by law, but the review functions focusing on anticipated revenues serve to protect the solvency of all local units. Local budgets, by law and regulation, must be in balance on a "cash basis". No budget or amendment thereof shall be adopted unless the Director shall have previously certified his approval thereof (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-10).

The principal sources of Township revenues are real estate taxes and miscellaneous revenues.

In any year, the municipality may authorize, by resolution, the issuance of tax anticipation notes which may be issued in anticipation of the collection of taxes for such year. Tax anticipation notes, are limited in amount by law and must be paid off in full by a municipality within one hundred and twenty (120) days after the close of the fiscal year.

## **Real Estate Taxes**

The general principle that revenue cannot be anticipated in a budget in excess of that realized in the preceding year applies to delinquent property taxes. N.J.S.A. 40A:4-29 delineates anticipation of delinquent tax collections: "The maximum which may be anticipated is the sum produced by the multiplication of the amount of delinquent taxes unpaid and owing to the local unit on the first day of the current fiscal year by the percentage of collection of delinquent taxes for the year immediately preceding the current fiscal year."

Section 41 of the Local Budget Law provides with regard to current taxes that: "Receipts from the collection of taxes levied or to be levied in the municipality, or in the case of a county for general county purposes and payable in the fiscal year, shall be anticipated in an amount which is not in excess of the percentage of taxes levied and payable during the next preceding fiscal year which was received in cash by the last day of such preceding fiscal year."

The provision requires that an additional amount (the "reserve for uncollected taxes") be added to the tax levy required to balance the budget so that when the percentage of the prior year's tax collection is applied to the combined total, the product will at least be equal to the tax levy required to balance the budget. The reserve requirement is calculated as follows:

<u>Levy Required to Balance Budget</u> Prior Year's Percentage of Current = Total Taxes to be Levied Tax Collections (or lesser %)

## **Miscellaneous Revenues**

Section 26 of the Local Budget Law provides: "no miscellaneous revenues from any source shall be included as an anticipated revenue in the budget in an amount in excess of the amount actually realized in cash from the same source during the next preceding fiscal year, unless the Director shall determine upon application by the governing body that the facts clearly warrant the expectation that such excess amount will actually be realized in cash during the fiscal year and shall certify such determination, in writing, to the local unit." The exception to this is the inclusion of categorical grants-in-aid contracts for their face amount with an offsetting appropriation. The fiscal years for such grants rarely coincide with the municipality's calendar fiscal year.

#### Limitations on Municipal Appropriations and Tax Levy

A provision of law known as the New Jersey "Cap Law" (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.1 et seq.) imposes limitations on increases in municipal appropriations subject to various exceptions. The payment of debt service is an exception from this limitation. The Cap formula is somewhat complex, but basically, it permits a municipality to increase its overall appropriations by the lesser of 2.5% or the "cost-of-living adjustment". The cost-of-living adjustment is the rate of annual percentage increase, rounded to the nearest one-half percent, in the Implicit Price Deflator for State and Local Government purchases of goods and services computed by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Exceptions to the limitations imposed by the Cap Law also exist for other things including capital expenditures; extraordinary expenses approved by the Local Finance Board for implementation of an interlocal services mandated by law. Counties are also prohibited from increasing their tax levies by more than the lesser of 2.5% or the full membership of the governing body may increase appropriations up to 3.5% over the prior years' tax levy in years when the cost-of-living adjustment is 2.5% or less.

Additionally, P.L 2007, c. 62, effective April 3, 2007, imposed a 4% cap on the tax levy of a municipality, county, fire district, or solid waste collection district, with certain exclusions and allowing waivers by the Local Finance Board, and on July 13, 2010, P.L. 2010, c. 44 was approved, effective for budget years following enactment, reducing the tax levy cap to 2% and limiting the exclusions to amounts required to be raised by taxation for capital expenditures, including debt service as defined by law, certain pension contributions and health care costs in excess of 2% and extraordinary costs directly related to a declared emergency. Voter approval may be requested to increase the amount to be raised by taxation by more than the allowable adjusted tax levy.

Neither the tax levy limitation nor the "Cap Law" limits the obligation of the Township to levy *ad valorem* taxes upon all taxable real property within the Township to pay debt service on its bonds or notes.

## **Deferral of Current Expense**

Emergency appropriations, those made after the adoption of the budget and determination of the tax rate, may be authorized by the governing body of the municipality. With minor exceptions, however, such appropriations must be included in full in the following year's budget. When such appropriations exceed 3% of the adopted operating budget, consent of the Director must be obtained.

The exceptions are certain enumerated quasi-capital projects such as ice, snow and flood damage to streets, roads and bridges, which may be amortized over three years, and tax map preparation, revaluation of real property, codification of ordinances, master plan preparations and contractually required severance liabilities, which may be amortized over five years.

## **Budget Transfers**

Budget transfers provide a degree of flexibility and afford a control mechanism. Transfers between major appropriation accounts are prohibited until the last two months of the year and, although sub-accounts within an appropriation are not subject to the same year-end transfer restriction, they are subject to internal review and approval by the governing body.

#### **Fiscal Year**

The Township's fiscal year is the calendar year. Chapter 75 of the Pamphlet Laws of 1991 of New Jersey required municipalities with populations in excess of 35,000 or which received Municipal Revitalization Aid from the State in 1990 or 1991 to change their fiscal year from the calendar year to the State fiscal year (July 1 to June 30), unless an exemption is granted. Municipalities not meeting the criteria for a mandatory change have the option to choose to change to the State fiscal year. The Township did not meet the criteria to change to the State fiscal year and does not presently intend to optionally make such a change in the future.

#### **Budget Process**

Primary responsibility for the Township's budget process lies with the Township Council. As prescribed by the Local Budget Law, adoption should occur by the end of March, however, extensions may be granted by the Division to any local governmental unit. In the first quarter in which the budget formulation is taking place, the Township operates under a temporary budget which may not exceed 26.25% of the previous fiscal year's adopted budget. In addition to the temporary budget, the Township may approve emergency temporary appropriations for any purpose for which appropriations may lawfully be made.

#### TAX MATTERS

The Township has covenanted to comply with any continuing requirements that may be necessary to preserve the exclusion from gross income for purposes of federal income taxation of interest on the Notes under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("Code"). Failure to comply with certain requirements of the Code could cause interest on the Notes to be includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes retroactive to the date of issuance of the Notes. In the opinion of DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole & Giblin, LLP, Bond Counsel, to be delivered at the time of original issuance of the Notes, assuming continuing compliance by the Township with certain covenants described herein, under current law, interest on the Notes is not includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference under Section 57 of the Code for purposes of computing the federal alternative minimum tax. No opinion is expressed regarding other federal tax consequences or other federal taxes arising with respect to the Notes.

Notwithstanding Bond Counsel's opinion that interest on the Notes is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax, for taxable years beginning before January 1, 2018, such interest will be included in the adjusted current earnings of certain corporations, and such corporations are required to include in the calculation of alternative minimum taxable income 75 percent of the excess of such corporation's adjusted current earnings over the alternative minimum taxable income (determined without regard to such adjustment and prior to reduction for certain net operating losses). The alternative minimum tax on corporations has been repealed for taxable years beginning after December31, 2017.

The Code imposes certain significant ongoing requirements that must be met after the issuance and delivery of the Notes in order to assure that the interest on the Notes will be and remain excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes. These requirements include, but are not limited to, requirements relating to use and expenditure of proceeds, yield and other restrictions on investments of gross proceeds, and the arbitrage rebate requirement that certain excess earnings on investments of gross proceeds of the Notes be rebated to the federal government. Noncompliance with such requirements may cause interest on the Notes to become subject to federal income taxation retroactive to their date of issuance, regardless of the date on which such noncompliance occurs or is discovered. The Township has covenanted that it shall do and perform all acts permitted by law that are necessary or desirable to assure that interest on the Notes will be and will remain excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes. The Township will deliver its Arbitrage and Tax Certificate concurrently with the issuance of the Notes, which will contain provisions relating to compliance with the requirements of the Code, including certain covenants in that regard by the Township. In rendering its opinion, Bond Counsel has relied on certain representations, certifications of fact, and statements of reasonable expectations made by the Township in connection with the Notes, and Bond Counsel has assumed compliance by the Township with certain ongoing covenants to comply with applicable requirements of the Code to assure the exclusion of interest on the Notes from gross income under Section 103 of the Code.

In the opinion of Bond Counsel, under current law interest on the Notes and any gain on the sale thereof are not includable as gross income under the New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act.

The opinions of Bond Counsel are limited to and based upon the laws and judicial decisions of the State and the federal laws and judicial decisions of the United States of America as of the date of the opinions, and are subject to any amendment, repeal or other modification of the applicable laws or judicial decisions that served as the basis for their opinions or to any laws or judicial decisions hereafter enacted or rendered. Bond Counsel assumes no obligation to update its opinions after the issue date to reflect any future action, fact or circumstance, or change in law or interpretation, or otherwise. Bond Counsel expresses no opinion on the effect of any action taken after the date of the opinions or not taken in reliance upon an opinion of other counsel on the exclusion from gross income for federal income tax purposes of interest on the Notes.

*Bank Qualification.* The Notes will be designated as qualified under Section 265 of the Code by the Township for an exemption from the denial of deduction for interest paid by the financial institutions to purchase or to carry tax exempt obligations.

*Branch Profits Tax.* Section 884 of the Code imposes on foreign corporations a branch profits tax equal to 30 percent of the "dividend equivalent amount" for the taxable year, unless modified, reduced or eliminated by income tax treaty in certain instances. Interest on the Notes received or accrued by a foreign corporation subject to the branch profits tax may be included in computing the "dividend equivalent amount" of such corporation for purposes of the branch profits tax.

*S Corporation Tax.* Section 1375 of the Code imposes a tax on the "excess net passive income" of certain S corporations with passive investment income in excess of 25 percent of gross receipts for a taxable year. The U.S. Department of Treasury has issued regulations indicating that interest on tax-exempt obligations, such as the Notes, held by an S corporation would be included in the calculation of excess net passive income.

*Other Federal Tax Consequences.* Owners of the Notes should be aware that the ownership of tax-exempt obligations may result in other collateral federal income tax consequences to certain taxpayers, including property and casualty insurance companies, individual recipients of Social Security and Railroad Retirement benefits, and taxpayers who may be deemed to have incurred or continued indebtedness to purchase or to carry tax-exempt obligations. Owners of the Notes should consult their own tax advisors as to the applicability and the effect on their federal income taxes of the alternative minimum tax, the branch profits tax and the tax on S corporations, as well as the applicability and the effect of any other federal income tax consequences.

*Possible Government Action.* Legislation affecting municipal obligations is regularly under consideration by the United States Congress. In addition, the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") has established an expanded audit program for tax-exempt obligations. There can be no assurance that legislation enacted or proposed or an audit initiated or concluded by the IRS after the issue date of the Notes involving either the Notes or other tax-exempt obligations will not have an adverse effect on the tax-exempt status or market price of the Notes.

ALL POTENTIAL PURCHASERS OF THE NOTES SHOULD CONSULT WITH THEIR TAX ADVISORS IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CODE.

# LITIGATION

To the knowledge of the Township Attorney, there is no litigation of any nature now pending or threatened that seeks to restrain or enjoin the issuance or the delivery of the Notes, the levy or the collection of any taxes to pay the principal of or the interest on the Notes or in any manner questioning the authority or the proceedings for the issuance of the Notes or for the levy or the collection of the taxes, affecting the validity of the Notes or the levy or the collection of taxes or contesting the corporate existence or the boundaries of the Township or the title of any of the present officers of the Township to their respective offices.

Additionally, there is at present no single action pending or threatened against the Township which would impose an undue financial burden on the Township. In New Jersey's courts of general jurisdiction, unliquidated money damages are pleaded generally without specifying a dollar amount. The Township is a party-defendant in certain law suits, none of a kind unusual for a Township of its size, and none of which, in the opinion of the Township Attorney, would adversely impair the Township's ability to pay its noteholders. All of the Township's tort actions are being defended by either an insurance company or insurance underwriters. Pending municipal real estate tax appeals are limited in number. The Township would fund the ultimate liability arising from tax appeals from amounts currently reserved, succeeding years' budgets or fund balance. Such resolution would not in any way endanger the Township's ability to pay its noteholders.

#### THE FEDERAL BANKRUPTCY ACT

The undertakings of the Township should be considered with reference to Chapter IX of the Bankruptcy Act, 11 U.S.C. Section 901 et seq., as amended by Public Law 95-598, approved November 6, 1978, and as further amended on November 3, 1988, by an Act to Amend the Bankruptcy Law to Provide for Special Revenue Bonds, and for Other Purposes, and on October 22, 1994, by the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994, and by other bankruptcy laws affecting creditor's rights and municipalities in general. Chapter IX permits a state or any political subdivision, public agency, or instrumentality that is insolvent or unable to meet its debts to file a petition in a bankruptcy court for the ultimate purpose of effecting a plan to adjust its debts. Chapter IX directs such a petitioner to file with the Bankruptcy Court a list of the petitioner's creditors; provides that a petition filed under this chapter shall operate as a stay of the commencement or continuation of any judicial or other proceeding against the petitioner, with the exception that such petition does not operate as a stay of application of pledged special revenues to the payment of indebtedness secured by such revenues; grants priority to administrative and operational expenses and to debts owed for services or material, up to \$4,000 per individual or corporation, actually provided within ninety (90) days of the filing of the petition; directs a petitioner to file a plan for the adjustment of its debts; provides that any securities issued under a reorganization plan will be exempt from the securities laws and, therefore, exempt from registration requirements; permits the petitioner, during bankruptcy proceedings, to continue to pay pre-petition debt without prior court approval; and provides that the plan must be accepted by a class of creditors, in writing, by or on behalf of creditors holding at least two-thirds in amount and more than one-half in number of the allowed claims of such class held by creditors. A plan shall not be approved by the Bankruptcy Court unless it is in the best interests of creditors and is feasible.

Reference should also be made to N.J.S.A. 52:27-40 thru 52:27-45.11, which provides that any county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the State has the power to file a petition with any Bankruptcy Court, provided the approval of the municipal finance commission has been obtained, and such petition has been authorized by ordinance of the governing body of the political subdivision. The powers of the municipal finance commission have been vested in the Local Finance Board. The Bankruptcy Act specifically provides that Chapter IX does not limit or impair the power of a state to control, by legislation or otherwise, the procedures that a municipality must follow in order to take advantage of the provisions of the Bankruptcy Act. However, the Bankruptcy Act does provide that a municipality must obtain any regulatory or electoral approval necessary under constitutional, statutory, or charter provisions, for actions taken under the reorganization plan.

#### **APPROVAL OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

All legal matters incident to the authorization, sale, issuance and delivery of the Notes are subject to the approval of DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole & Giblin, LLP, Teaneck, New Jersey, Bond Counsel to the Township, whose approving legal opinion will be substantially in the form provided in Appendix C. Certain legal matters will be passed on for the Township by its Counsel, Silvana D. Raso, Esq., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.

#### CONTINUING DISCLOSURE

The Township has covenanted to provide certain secondary market disclosure in compliance with Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12, as amended and interpreted from time to time (the "Rule"). Specifically, the Township will provide, in a timely manner not in excess of ten (10) business days after the occurrence of any of the following events, to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (the "MSRB") through the MSRB's Electronic Municipal Markets Access System (EMMA"), notice of any of the following events with respect to the Notes:

- 1. Principal and interest payment delinquencies.
- 2. Non-payment related defaults, if material.
- 3. Unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties.
- 4. Unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties.

- 5. Substitution of credit or liquidity providers or their failure to perform.
- 6. Adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notices of Proposed Issue (IRS Form 5701-TEB) or other material notices or determinations with respect to the tax status of the Notes, or other material events affecting the tax status of the Notes.
- 7. Modifications to rights of holders of the Notes, if material.
- 8. Bond calls, if material, and tender offers.
- 9. Defeasances.
- 10. Release, substitution or sale of property securing repayment of the Notes, if material.
- 11. Rating changes.
- 12. Bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the Township.
- 13. The consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving the Township or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Township, other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such an action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to any such actions, other than pursuant to its terms, if material.
- 14. Appointment of a successor or additional trustee, or the change of name of a trustee, if material.

In the event that the Township fails to comply with the above-described undertaking and covenants, the Township shall not be liable for any monetary damages, remedy of the beneficial owners of the Notes being specifically limited in the undertaking to specific performance of the covenants.

The undertaking may be amended by the Township from time to time, without the consent of the Noteholders or the beneficial owners of the Notes, in order to make modifications required in connection with a change in legal requirements or change in law, which in the opinion of nationally recognized bond counsel complies with the Rule.

The Township has filed its required disclosure, in accordance with the Rule, in a timely manner under previous filing requirements. The Township has appointed Phoenix Advisors, LLC to serve as continuing disclosure agent.

#### MUNICIPAL ADVISOR

Phoenix Advisors, LLC, Bordentown, New Jersey, has served as municipal advisor to the Township with respect to the issuance of the Notes ("Municipal Advisor"). The Municipal Advisor is not obligated to undertake, and has not undertaken, either to make an independent verification of or to assume responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or fairness of the information contained in this Official Statement and the appendices hereto. The Municipal Advisor is an independent firm and is not engaged in the business of underwriting, trading or distributing municipal securities or other public securities.

#### UNDERWRITING

The Notes have been purchased by Oppenheimer & Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at a purchase price of \$9,479,557.00.

#### PREPARATION OF OFFICIAL STATEMENT

The Township hereby states that the descriptions and statements herein, including financial statements, are true and correct in all material respects and it will confirm to the purchaser of the Notes, by certificate signed by the Chief Financial Officer, that to his knowledge such descriptions and statements, as of the date of this Official Statement, are true and correct in all material respects and do not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements herein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

The firm of Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP, Fair Lawn, New Jersey, Certified Public Accountants and Registered Municipal Accountants, assisted in the preparation of information contained in this Official Statement, and takes responsibility for the financial statements to the extent specified in the Independent Auditors' Report.

All other information has been obtained from sources which Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP, considers to be reliable but it makes no warranty, guarantee or other representation with respect to the accuracy and completeness of such information.

DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole & Giblin, LLP, Teaneck, New Jersey has not participated in the preparation of the financial or statistical information contained in this official statement, nor have they verified the accuracy, completeness or fairness thereof and, accordingly, expresses no opinion with respect thereto.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Inquiries regarding this Official Statement including information additional to that contained herein may be directed to Gennaro Rotella, Chief Financial Officer, Township of River Vale, 406 Rivervale Road, River Vale, New Jersey, 07675, telephone 201-664-2346 extension 1007.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

All quotations from summaries and explanations of the provisions of the laws of the State herein do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the official compilation thereof.

This Official Statement is not to be construed as a contract or agreement between the Township and the purchasers or holders of any of the Notes. Any statements made in this Official Statement involving matters of opinion, whether or not expressly so stated, are intended merely as opinions and not as representations of fact. The information and expressions of opinion herein are subject to change without notice and neither the delivery of this Official Statement nor any sale made hereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there have been no changes in the affairs in the Township, the County of Bergen, the State or any of their agencies or authorities, since the date hereof.

This Official Statement has been duly executed and delivered on behalf of the Township by the Chief Financial Officer.

# TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE

By

<u>s/ Gennaro Rotella</u> Gennaro Rotella Chief Financial Officer

Dated: July 31, 2018

# APPENDIX A

## CERTAIN INFORMATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE

# **APPENDIX B**

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

APPENDIX C

PROPOSED FORM OF BOND COUNSEL OPINION