

Message from Mayor Sarah Neibart
Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Last night, the Mendham Township Committee passed a resolution which lowered the rate of interest on delinquent taxes and delinquent sewer fees to 0%. The Township Committee did this to alleviate the financial stress on residents who have started to feel the economic impact of the COVID-19 health crisis.

We are dealing with historic health and economic challenges. This global pandemic has already brought incredible stress to our healthcare system and everyday lives. Our leaders have had to take aggressive action to combat this virus. Actions which will save lives but will also have a profound effect on our society for decades to come.

On Saturday, March 21st, in an effort to try to mitigate and contain community spread and flatten the curve, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 107 which directed residents to stay home, closed non-essential retail businesses, and encouraged employees to work remotely.

Although some of our residents have been able to work from home, others have not. During this time, some residents have had to limit or close their businesses, utilize sick time, or seek unemployment. Upon learning this, the Township Committee wanted to explore every option to provide relief to residents who were struggling.

The due dates on real estate taxes are set by the state; however, municipalities have the authority to decide what interest rate is charged on delinquent taxes. With that said, the Township Committee encourages the timely payment of taxes; but understands the incredible circumstances residents might find themselves in right now. No one should have to make the choice between paying their property tax bill or buying food or medicine for themselves or their family. As such, it is expected that those who are fortunate enough not to be as financially impacted by the current crisis will pay on time to support the community and those most greatly impacted can make the choices they need to in order to support their families. By pulling together as a community, we will get through this...together.

Therefore, while the Local State of Emergency that I signed on Friday, March 13, 2020 is in effect, the rate of interest for all delinquent taxes and delinquent sewer fees will be 0%.