OFFICE OF THE SELECTMAN

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April 27, 2020

Voluntown Residents,

Governor Lamont's Executive Order No 7S, Section 6, requires every town to choose a tax status program and report that decision to the Office of Policy Management (OPM) by April 25, 2020. The two tax status choices offered are the Deferment Program or the Low Interest Rate Program. The option is also given to choose both programs. At the Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting on April 21, 2020, the Board of Selectmen voted to choose the Deferment Program.

The Board of Selectmen, after consulting with our tax collector, unanimously agreed that the Deferment Program is the best tax status program option for our residents who might be challenged with lack of employment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Deferment Program extends the tax payment deadline for the July 1, 2020 collection cycle to be extended by 90 days. This means that there will be no late charges collected as long as taxes are paid in full by October 1, 2020. The Deferment Program does not include taxes that are in escrow. Banks are still expected to make tax payments on time. If taxes are not paid in full by October 1, 2020, the late fees are accrued from the July 1, 2020 due date. We hope that this benefits those who, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, need extra time to pay taxes. We understand this is going to be a difficult year for everyone financially. We encourage those who can do so, to pay on time.

In order to qualify for the Deferment Program (and either of the tax status programs) a town must have their budget for FY21, the budget that the tax bills will be set for, passed by June 30th. The Board of Selectmen is hoping that we will be able to have our Annual Town Meeting to vote on the budget in June and we will be adjusting our proposed budget schedule to accommodate. More information on the budget timeline will be forthcoming.

Thank you and stay safe!

Tracey Hanson
First Selectman