



SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP

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May 12, 2020

Dear Sandyston Residents,

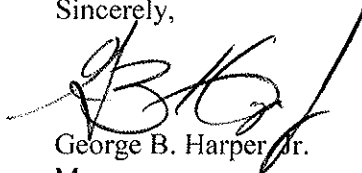
On April 28, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy issued Executive Order #130 allowing municipalities to extend the grace period for second quarter (May) property tax payments until June 1. What was not clearly explained properly by the media was that governing bodies needed to act on this by Resolution should municipalities chose to extend the grace period or the fact that this order did not extend the statutory due date which municipalities must pay School and County taxes. By law, the County has to be paid by the 15th of the month or we will be assessed a 6% late fee. The County and schools count on us to send them the taxes so they can continue to pay their bills. Since April 28, 2020, we have participated in many conference calls with elected officials and municipalities and our Tax Collector and Chief Financial Officer have been monitoring tax payments as they are received reviewing our fiscal picture to determine the best decision for Sandyston Township.


As you are aware, Sandyston Township collects county, municipal and school taxes on a quarterly basis and pays these taxes to the County and schools as required during the year. By May 15, Sandyston must write a check to Sussex County for the County portion in the amount of \$355,337.06. We also must write checks to Kittatiny Regional High School in the amount of \$170,947.80 and Sandyston-Walpack Consolidated School in the amount of \$180,320.00 for the school portions for a total of \$706,604.86. As previously stated, Executive Order #130 did not include an extension for municipalities to pay these statutory payments which puts the burden on us as elected officials to make the difficult decision to extend the grace period and risk a cash flow shortage resulting in our need to either reach into our reserves or take out a loan which increase costs for residents or leave the grace period as is in order to meet our statutory deadlines. We also must be realistic and look ahead to other tax quarters as they approach, as well as how our State Aid will be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the Township Committee meeting held Tuesday, May 12, 2020, we discussed this matter and determined we will not be extending the grace period. These decisions are never easy, but we feel this is the best course of action for Sandyston Township at this time. We understand you must make the best decision for your family and should you choose to pay your tax bill on June 1, instead of by the end of the 10-day grace period (May 11), you will be charged an interest penalty back to May 1. For example, a \$1,000 tax payment made on June 1 will pay \$6.67 in interest or a \$2,500 tax payment made on June 1 will pay \$25.00

Please know this is not a decision we made lightly. We wish you continued good health during this time. As always, should you wish to discuss this matter, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,


George B. Harper, Jr.
Mayor


Kamala M. Hull
Deputy Mayor


Fred V. MacDonald
Committeeman