

TOWN OF GILL

M A S S A C H U S E T T S



The Selectboard is deeply aware of the economic crisis the coronavirus pandemic has caused for so many Gill residents and businesses, and is hopeful these tax due date extensions and interest waivers will provide some measure of relief. At the Gill Selectboard meeting held on Monday, April 13, 2020, it was voted to:

- a) change the official due date for payment of the second-half property tax bills (real estate and person property) from May 4, 2020 to June 1, 2020;
- b) change the official deadline for filing applications for property tax exemptions (such as elderly, blind, veteran) to June 1, 2020; and
- c) waive any penalties and interest for late payments made between March 10, 2020 and June 29, 2020 on all bills (motor vehicle excise taxes, property taxes, sewer charges added to property taxes, and sewer charges) with due dates between March 10, 2020 and June 29, 2020.

The statutorily required notice to taxpayers of these local options adopted by the Town of Gill can be found as a News item on the Town's website, www.gillmass.org.

If a late payment is made on June 30, 2020 or after that date, interest will be calculated based on the due date of the bill. So, the calculation of interest will be based on the due date of June 1, 2020 for property taxes and the specific due dates for any motor vehicle excise bills or sewer bills.

The waiver described above does not include bills that had a due date before March 10, 2020. For instance, there will be no waiver of interest on a late payment made for a property tax bill that was due on November 4, 2019.

Like any business or household, the Town depends on adequate cash flow to pay its bills. If you are financially able to make your tax payments on time or early, it is greatly appreciated. If your real estate taxes are paid by a mortgage company, we ask you to contact them and request they submit your payment for the original due date.

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Important Information Regarding Your Tax Bill

Under “An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting From COVID-19,” Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, the town has adopted local options to extend due dates for real and personal property tax payments and applications for exemptions and a waiver of interest on certain municipal tax and other bills paid by June 30, 2020. See below.

1. **The due date of your real and personal property tax bill has been extended to June 1, 2020.** June 1, 2020 is the new due date even if the due date for payment on your enclosed or previously mailed tax bill is May 4, 2020.

2. **The due date for applications for property tax exemptions has also been extended to June 1, 2020.** June 1, 2020 is the new due date even if the due date for applications on your enclosed or previously mailed tax bill is May 4, 2020.

This extension applies to applications for the exemptions listed in the third paragraph of G.L. c. 59, § 59, including exemptions under clauses 17, 17C, 17C1/2 and 17D (seniors, surviving spouses, minor children of deceased parent); 18 (financial hardship – activated military, age and infirmity); 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 22F and 22H (veterans, surviving spouses and surviving parents); 37 and 37A (blind persons); 41, 41B, 41C and 41C1/2 (seniors); 42 and 43 (surviving spouse and minor children of firefighter/police officer killed in line of duty); 52 (certain eligible seniors); 53 (certain eligible properties with septic systems); 56 (National Guard and reservists on active duty in foreign countries); and 57 (local option tax rebates). This extension also automatically applies to applications for residential exemptions under G.L. c. 59, § 5C, for small commercial exemptions under G.L. c. 59, § 5I and for deferrals under G.L. c. 59, § 5, clauses 41A (seniors) and 18A (poverty or financial hardship due to change to active military). This extension applies only to those exemptions previously adopted or accepted by the town.

3. The town has also voted to waive interest and other penalty for late payment of any excise, tax, betterment assessment or apportionment thereof, annual sewer use or other charge added to a tax for any payments **with a due date on or after March 10, 2020 where payment is made late but before June 30, 2020.** This applies to late payments of bills that have a due date of March 10, 2020 or after, when such bills are paid late but paid before June 30. This waiver of interest does not apply to bills with due dates before March 10, 2020 or if the bill is not paid by June 30.

NOTE - If the municipal offices are closed on the June 1, 2020 extended due date for tax payments or filing of exemption applications as a result of the outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus or the declaration of a state of emergency issued by the governor on March 10, 2020, the due dates for tax payments and applications for exemptions are not extended – they will be due on June 1, 2020 even if the municipal offices are closed. (See section 10(b) of the Act.)

Information on how/where to make tax payments and file applications for exemptions can be found on the next page.

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TO MAKE A PAYMENT FOR TAX BILLS

Due to the need to control the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), we are currently unable to accept in-person payments.

Please pay by check or money order and mail all payments to:

Tax Collector / Town of Gill
PO Box 784
Turners Falls, MA 01376

You may also pay using “Bill Pay” or a similar feature available through online banking from most bank accounts.

***Be sure to include the payment stub from the bill. On your check, write the bill type (Real Estate, Motor Vehicle, Sewer, etc), bill year and cycle #, and bill number. Include the same info if you are making an online payment.

If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from paying by mail or paying online, please contact the Tax Collector (413-863-2105) or Town Administrator (413-863-9347) to discuss alternate arrangements.

TO FILE EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS

Please mail applications for exemptions to:

Board of Assessors
325 Main Road
Gill, MA 01354

If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from mailing your application, please contact the Assessors’ Clerk (413-863-0138) or Town Administrator (413-863-9347) to discuss alternate arrangements.