

Town of Shutesbury

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/city 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 April 1, 2020 or May 1, 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 April 1, 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).

Information on exemptions can be found on the Assessor’s web page on the Town’s website (Shutesbury.org) or by contacting the Assessors by telephone at 413-259-3790 (please leave a message with return telephone number), e-mailing the office at assessors@shutesbury.org or sending written requests to Board of Assessors, PO Box 264, Shutesbury, MA 01072. Applications for exemptions should be mailed to the Assessors at the above address and must be received on or before June 1.

3. The town/city has also voted to waive interest and other penalty for late payment of any excise, tax, betterment assessment or apportionment thereof, water rate or 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 payment of such bills are received at the Collector’s office before June 30. This waiver of interest does not apply to bills with due dates before March 10, 2020 or if payment of the bill is not received at the Collector’s office by June 30.

This waiver only applies to the following bills: 2020 Real Estate and Personal Property Quarter 4, 2020, Motor Vehicle excise commitment 2 (bills number 1792 -1888), commitment 20 (bills 20001-20019) or any bills not yet issued. It does not apply to any overdue balance on the quarter 4 real estate or personal property bills.

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.)

Messages can be left for the Collector at 413-259-1615 with return telephone numbers (return calls will be made mornings only) by e-mail to collector@shutesbury.org and by mail to PO Box 175, Shutesbury, MA 01072. Payments can be made through the UniBank on-line banking site. The link is found on the Town's website (Shutesbury.org). To enter your information, you should enter the year and bill number without letters (ie 2020 for year and 165 for bill number) or click on "to search for your bill – click here" and enter the last name of the first name on the bill. Payments can be mailed either to the lockbox at Town of Shutesbury, Department 3520, PO Box 4110, Woburn, MA 01888-4110 or Town Collector, PO Box 175, Shutesbury, MA 01072. **No payments can be made in person at the town hall as the town hall is closed to the public.**