

Community of Devens

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 “Act”), the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency’s Board of Directors, as chief executive of the Devens Community, has adopted local options to: (A) extend due dates for property tax payments and applications for exemptions to June 1, 2020; and (B) waive interest on certain local tax and other bills paid by June 30, 2020. Please see below for more detailed information.

1. The due date of your current 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 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 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).

3. The MassDevelopment Board has also voted to waive interest and other penalties for late payment of any excise tax, betterment assessment or apportionments thereof, Devens Utilities charges (i.e., water, sewer, electricity and gas) or other charges added to a tax for bills 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 after the written due date but paid on or 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, 2020.

NOTE - If the MassDevelopment offices are closed on June 1, 2020, the extended due dates for property tax payments and filing of exemption applications is not further extended – they will be due on June 1, 2020 even if the MassDevelopment offices are closed. (See section

10(b) of the Act.). Similarly, if the MassDevelopment offices are closed on June 30, 2020, the due date for payment of excise taxes, betterment assessments or apportionments thereof, Devens Utilities bills or other charges added to a tax is not further extended – those payments will still be due on June 30, 2020 in order to qualify for the waiver of interest and other penalties.