

Synopsis of Report:

The report dated March 29, 2020 entitled Tax Installment Deferral is to present to Council options to address tax installment deferral due to the Covid-19 virus situation. The Township wants to help tax payers in these trying times by helping to alleviate the financial pressures for those that have lost their jobs or who find themselves in financial strain due to the Covid-19 virus.

Overview:

Martina, Crystal, Donna, Carol Anne and myself had a conference call to discuss tax deferral options. From that meeting we agreed on the following:

1. That the penalty for the April 30th due date will be postponed.
2. That anyone who wishes to be removed from the monthly or due date PAP file can be.
3. That anyone who has post-dated cheques on file for the April 30th due date can request that they be pulled.
4. After the April 1st penalty there will be no more penalty applied on any tax account until the Municipal COVID-19 virus emergency is declared over.

Information will be posted on the webpage and after direction is received from Council a "standard" response will be drafted for staff to respond to tax payer enquires regarding requests for tax installment deferrals. I would like staff to request an email address so the response can be sent in writing. This will ensure that all tax payers are being provided the same information.

Conclusion:

In an effort to try and relieve some financial burden on tax payers who have been affected financially by the Covid-19 virus the Township of Douro-Dummer is putting in place tax installment payment deferral options.

Recommendation:

That the Treasurer-2020-04 report, dated March 29, 2020 regarding Tax Installment Deferral be received and that and that Staff be directed to put in place the following:

1. Penalty for the April 30th due date be postponed.
2. That anyone who wishes to be removed from the monthly or due date PAP file can be upon request.
3. That anyone who has post-dated cheques on file for the April 30th due date can request that they be pulled.
4. After the April 1st penalty there will be no more penalty applied on any account.

And that the tax deferral options be kept in place until such time the Municipal Covid-19 virus emergency declaration is over.

And that By-Law 2020-06 "A By-Law to provide for an Interim Tax Levy and the Payment of Interim Taxes for the Year 2020" be amended to to waive interest and penalty charged on unpaid taxes for current and previous years until the Municipal COVID-10 emergency declaration is over.

Financial Impact:

Each month the penalty isn't applied the Township will be losing approximately \$12,000 to \$15,000 in revenue.

Strategic Plan Applicability:

To ensure and enable an effective and efficient municipal administration.

Sustainability Plan Applicability: N/A