

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 22, 2020
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

A special meeting of the North Haven Board of Selectmen was held via teleconference on Wednesday, April 22 at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Michael J. Freda, First Selectman
William J. Pieper, Second Selectman
Sally J. Buemi, Third Selectman

Staff:

Valerie Goodkin, Executive Assistant

Mr. Freda convened the meeting at 5:03 p.m. and confirmed the attendance of Selectmen William Pieper and Sally Buemi followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Freda explained that in accordance with Governor Ned Lamont's Executive Order 7B Section 1, which suspends the open meeting requirements of in-person participation, audio and video of the special meeting is being simultaneously televised live on NHTV and via GoToMeeting for those unable to access NHTV.

Mr. Freda explained that during this pandemic, our residents and tax paying citizens are experiencing difficult times. In light of the financial strain that people are facing the Governor has issued a series of executive orders. He explained that the Selectmen were meeting tonight to discuss 2 options available to our municipality under Section 6 of Governor Ned Lamont's Executive Order No. 7S entitled "Suspension and Modification of Tax Deadlines and Collection Efforts" issued due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are two programs available and towns have until April 25th to decide and may elect one or both.

1 – Deferment Program states that for the period of March 10, 2020 through and including July 1, 2020 eligible tax payers impacted by COVID-19 may defer taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water and sewer rates for 90 days.

2 – Low Interest Rate Program states that the delinquent portion of the principal of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water and sewer rates shall be subject to an interest rate of three (3) percent per annum for 90 days. This includes delinquent taxes of March 10, 2020.

The Selectmen discussed the options in detail. Mr. Freda stated that he was in favor of the 90 day deferment program only and not the low interest program. Miss Buemi also stated that she too was in favor of the 90 deferment program. She explained that the deferment was really just an extension of the grace period from the 30 days already in

place to 90 days making the taxes due by October 1, 2020, thus giving tax payers an additional two months. The Selectmen discussed the escrow versus non escrow residential percentages. Mr. Pieper noted that he had some concern with the administrative burden with regard to the interest program. Mr. Freda also noted that he was in favor of waiving the application process for the Deferment Program. Mr. Pieper also added that if taxpayers do not have a need to take advantage of the Tax Deferment Program it would be helpful for the cash flow of the Town if they could pay their taxes when then would normally be due. The discussion continued with the Selectmen in agreement that they were all in support of the Tax Deferment Program option only.

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the approval of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 6 of Governor Ned Lamont's Executive Order No. 7S, that the Town of North Haven elects to participate in a Deferment Program and to authorize First Selectman Michael Freda to certify the program election to the Office of Policy and Management by April 25, 2020.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

Mr. Freda motioned with a second from Miss Buemi to waive the application process for the Deferment Program.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

With no further business before the Board, Miss Buemi motioned to adjourn at 5:53 pm.