March 19th, 2020

To The Residents of Stonington—

We realize that employers and employees are facing challenges due to the economic slowdown the virus has prompted. Here is what we plan to do to help:

• 30 Day Notices of Impending Liens typically go out this time of year, but will be delayed to give more people a chance to review their personal budgets and figure out how to prioritize spending in the near-term.

• We will suspend water disconnection for customers of the Stonington Water Company for the time being, and we encourage customers to make payment arrangements in this time if they’re expecting financial difficulties.

• The Stonington Microloan Program will be reviewed to see if economic disaster conditions can open up new avenues or opportunities for existing or new businesses.

• The town has a General Assistance program. The application and brochure are on our website, and we partner with other local agencies such as the Food Pantry, and with Downeast Community Partners to figure out, with our combined resources, what assistance might be able to given to eligible applicants.

• The town has a heating fund for Seniors who may need heating or cooking fuel to get by if LIHEAP funds get exhausted.

• Our Economic Development Director, Henry Teverow has prioritized his work plan to researching putting together economic and business relief sources on our website and is available for outreach.

• Our Stonington Economic Development Committee (SEDC) is convening to work on an economic recovery plan and is engaging representatives of the fishing, tourism, construction, and creative industries for their input.

If there is anything else that we can do to serve our citizens in this time, please let us know.

Stonington Board of Selectmen
Kathleen Billings, Town Manager