



To: Peter Joseph, Town Manager
From: Jessica Maloy, Finance Director
Re: Waiver of Interest
Date: July 15, 2021

Before you is a request from a Resident to waive the interest incurred on their account due to late payment of taxes.

It is NOT my recommendation to waive this interest.

We are not obligated to issue tax bills, though it aids in collection and we do so as a courtesy to our Residents. The reason for this stance at the State (not obligated to issue tax bills) is for the exact reason we were faced with this year. We cannot control the mail once it leaves our facility.

Interest is assessed on all properties when payment is not made by the dates set by Council each year (Typically the 15th of November and May), regardless on why the payment was not made/received.

We, in Freeport, go above and beyond to ensure the impact to the Residents are as minimal as possible. This Resident incurred only a \$15.49 interest fee on a \$4,418.40 installment because we send out reminder post cards quickly after the actual tax due date for situations just like this one. Without the post card reminder, the first notice this customer would have received would have been the 30-day lien notice with approximately \$35 of interest and \$9.96 of fees accruing in that timeframe.

Waving this interest could open up for other Residents to do the same, even if it's not accurate that a tax bill was not received. We would have no way to dispute this with any of them.

Again, it would not be my recommendation to waive this interest. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Lynn Horr

From: Jessica Maloy
Sent: Tuesday, July 06, 2021 5:10 PM
To: Christine Wolfe; Lynn Horr
Subject: FW: RE Tax Interest

Hi Christine,

Can you please add this to the agenda for 7/20/21?

Thank you,

Jessica Maloy

Finance Director
Town of Freeport
30 Main St.
Freeport, ME 04032
207-865-4743 x115

From: robertaranson <aransonr@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, July 3, 2021 11:50 AM
To: Jessica Maloy <jmaloy@freeportmaine.com>
Subject: Re: RE Tax Interest

**** CAUTION EXTERNAL EMAIL ****

Jessica,

Thank you for returning my call and for listening to our situation.

As I previously mentioned to Doug Reighley, our District 3 Freeport councilor, we have an issue with our May 2021 property tax bill.

The Town of Freeport mails out property tax invoices twice yearly, before the November and May due dates. This year we received no such invoice before the May tax payment was due. Without this notice, we had not known that we hadn't paid our property taxes until having recently received a postcard from Town Hall stating so. As a result, I went to Town Hall to pay our May property taxes, but with interest added of \$15.49. While ordinarily this fee would not be a burdensome amount of money, my wife and I are now living on a fixed income. Therefore, I would like to appeal the interest fee.

As lifetime Maine residents, my wife and I have lived in Freeport for 20 years, and have always paid our property taxes in full and on time --- every time. In addition, because of the CoVID-19 pandemic during these past 16 unprecedented months, the US Postal Service has had issues with mail delivery, sometimes at no fault of their own. Certainly, we would have paid our property taxes on time if we had received the May invoice, which our unblemished record of tax payments has shown; however, we never received it. While I was informed that the State does not require cities and towns to send property tax bills or notices to their residents, the Town of Freeport has set a longtime precedent of doing so, at least in our 20 years of living here.

Therefore, for the aforementioned reasons, I would appreciate the Town Council forgiving our \$15.49 interest penalty which, perhaps, can be deducted from our next property tax bill this coming November. If companies and local and state legislatures nationwide and even the Federal government can be forgiving of late payments during this pandemic, I believe our Town of Freeport could do likewise.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration. I would be more than happy to present our case before the Town Council.

Sincerely yours,

Robert (& Jean) Aranson
20 Lookout Drive
(207) 865-9437 (landline)
(207) 233-4845 (cell)

On Jun 21, 2021, at 5:51 PM, Jessica Maloy <jmaloy@freeportmaine.com> wrote:

Good Evening Robert,

It was nice speaking with you.

Here is my email if you choose to respond, asking for an appearance before council to request a waiver of interest.

Thank you,

Jessica Maloy

Finance Director
Town of Freeport
30 Main St.
Freeport, ME 04032
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