MEDIA RELEASE

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East Hampton COVID-19 Response Update April 15, 2020

East Hampton, CT, April 15, 2020 – According to the latest information from the Chatham Health District, the Town of East Hampton has had 13 confirmed cases of COVID-19 disease. This number increased rapidly in the last several days. Residents are reminded to take steps to protect themselves and others by following the recommended procedures including the use of cloth masks over their mouth and nose while in public. There are a number of known cases in the region and that it is likely that there are other cases in the community and in the surrounding communities that are not showing symptoms or are experiencing mild symptoms.

The Chatham Health District and the Town remind residents to “Stay Safe, Stay Home” and be diligent as they continue to avoid contact with others. Wash hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds especially after being in public, sneezing, coughing or nose blowing. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer. To further prevent the spread of COVID-19, please use a face mask, always maintain “social distancing” of at least 6 feet and stay away from groups of people. Protect others by staying home if you are sick, covering coughs and sneezes and regularly cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces. For the most current updates and recommendations, visit ct.gov/coronavirus. For general questions, call 2-1-1.

The Town’s operations continue to be impacted by the pandemic. Offices and facilities remain closed to the public with limited ability to meet by appointment as necessary. The Parks and Recreation Department, Library and Senior Center are all offering online programing in addition to online resources that are normally available. Visit their websites, which are accessible through the Town’s site at easthamptonct.gov, for more information and links to their respective social media.

At its meeting last night, the Town Council adopted a program providing interest relief to taxpayers and utility customers that are unable to pay bills due between April 1 and July 1, which includes the annual tax bill, which will be issued in June and due on July 1. During that time, a three percent (3%) annual interest rate (0.25% per month or portion of a month) will apply for the first three months a bill is late. Information on the specifics of the program is available in the agenda packet for the April 14 meeting on the Town’s website.
On Monday, April 20, the Board of Finance will begin the FY 20/21 budget process with a public hearing via the Zoom platform. Interested residents are encouraged to view that information, including the proposed budget and the agenda with access information for the meeting, on the Town’s website. Written comments on the budget will be accepted via budget@easthamptonct.gov or via mail at the Town Hall, 20 E High Street.

The next Town update is scheduled for Friday, April 17.