

Transcript of update #3 from Mayor Shantz about COVID-19

March 29, 2020

Hello

You might wonder what we are doing to support you during this time of uncertainty.

More than 17 municipal and community partners have formed a Community Support Control Group to help the most vulnerable in our community and to make sure our efforts are coordinated across sectors and across the community.

Our local service organizations like Woolwich Community Services and Community Care Concepts continue to provide many of their regular support services, including food support services.

In response to COVID-19, Township staff continue to support the business community. Our Economic Development focus has shifted to:

- helping local business access Federal and Provincial financial aids;
 - The Prime Minister just announced increased funds for small and medium businesses.
- promoting local business services that are still available or have moved to offering online purchasing; and
- monitoring the economic impact so we can make informed decisions now and towards recovery, when the time comes.

Last night, our Council had a special, remote meeting to discuss local relief measures at the Township level. I am happy to tell you that, for the months of April and May, we approved support measures for those who need it.

This includes:

- waiving penalties and interest on property taxes;
- waiving late payment charges on utility bills and miscellaneous receivable invoices;
- waiving non-sufficient funds (NSF) fees charged by the Township on customer accounts; and
- suspending the transfer of Water accounts in arrears to Property Taxes.

Council expects this is to be the first of local relief measures that we will consider. The situation is continually changing, so we have started by acting on new legislation that allows Council to hold remote meetings during emergencies like this. This will allow us to keep working to support our community while maintaining physical separation.

A video recording of the meeting will be posted online, and we hope to livestream future meetings to Facebook. Please keep watching our website, social media and local news for more information.

Lastly, I want to reiterate how grateful I am for how our community is handling this, be it health care and emergency workers working tirelessly and selflessly, local businesses stepping up to innovate and re-tool, or

most of all, all of you – our friends and neighbours who are following the advice of medical professionals.

Let's take care of each other, let's support each other, and we will get through this together.

Stay safe! Be well!