

BURKE, MIELE, GOLDEN & NAUGHTON, LLP

40 MATTHEWS STREET
SUITE 209

POST OFFICE BOX 216
GOSHEN, NEW YORK 10924
(845) 294-4080

FAX (845) 294-7673

RICHARD B. GOLDEN
KELLY M. NAUGHTON*
ROBERT M. MIELE**
ASHLEY N. TORRE**
PATRICK T. BURKE

JOSEPH P. MCGLINN (1941-2000)

* ADMITTED IN NEW YORK & MASSACHUSETTS

** ADMITTED IN NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY

June 2, 2021

Honorable Michelle L. Phillips, Secretary
New York State Public Service Commission
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223

Re: MATTER 20-01676 – In the Matter of the Implementation of the Public Service Law §§ 32, 89-b, 89-1, 91, 216 and General Business Law § 399-zzzzz (Chapter 106 of the Laws of 2020) Regarding Moratorium on Utility Service Terminations and Disconnections of Residential and Small Business Customers during the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

Dear Secretary Phillips,

On behalf of the Village of Woodbury (“Village”), the undersigned respectfully submits this letter in response to the Notice of the Department of Public Service (“DPS”) Guidance relating to the COVID-19 Utility Moratorium on Terminations and Disconnections, issued May 24, 2021 (“Guidance”), as it relates to the Public Service Law §§ 32, 89-b, 89-1, 91, 216 and General Business Law § 399-zzzzz Amendments (“PSL and GBL Amendments”) enacted on May 11, 2021. Pursuant to the Guidance, the Village must file with DPS the Village’s plan for implementation of the PSL Amendments. The Village’s plan for implementation of the PLS Amendments is as follows:

- The Village has reviewed the PSL and GBL Amendments and followed the guidelines as outline in the DPS Guidance document dated May 24, 2021.
- The Village will not terminate or disconnect any residential municipal water for the nonpayment of bills, taxes, or fees for the duration of the COVID-19 state of emergency, or July 1, 2022, whichever is earlier.
- In the event the Village has terminated or discontinued any residential municipal water and termination or discontinuance was made during the pendency of the COVID-19 state of emergency, the Village will restore service within 48 hours.

- The Village has provided mailed notices to residential customers of the PSL and GBL Amendments and of the protections provided for in the PSL and GBL Amendments. The Village has also provided notice on its website.
- The Village will accept a residential customer's and small business customer's self-certification that the customer has experienced a change in financial circumstances due to the COVID-19 state of emergency.
- Those residential customers and small business customers who sign the self-certification will not be disconnected or terminated for non-payment until after the disconnection protection period ends, which will be 180 days from the date upon which the current COVID-19 state of emergency is terminated, or July 1, 2022, whichever is earlier.
- The Village's residential customers will be provided with the right to enter into a Deferred Payment Agreement to prevent future termination with no money down, no late fees or penalties.
- The Village has included a copy of the Village's Notice pursuant to PSL §§89-1(5), 89-b(10), and 32(8) that has been sent to its residential and small business customers.
- The Village will file a final report detailing (1) the number of affected households using PSL Amendment protections, (2) the number of Deferred Payment Agreements for the period of October 4, 2020 to December 31, 2021, and (3) the total number of disconnections for nonpayment from October 4, 2020 to December 31, 2021, with DPS within thirty (30) days of the expiration date of the PSL and GBL Amendments of July 1, 2022.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,


KELLY M. NAUGHTON

KMN:la
Enclosure

CC: Timothy P. Egan, Mayor
Desiree Potvin, Village Clerk

Village of Woodbury Water Dept.

NOTICE TO RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL BUSINESS WATER CUSTOMERS Moratorium on Water Service Termination, Moratorium on Water Relevy, and Opportunity for Deferred Payment Agreements

On May 11, 2021 Governor Cuomo signed into law amendments to the Public Service Law that prevent municipalities and public utilities from terminating water service provided to residents and small businesses for non-payment during the COVID-19 state of emergency. Additionally, the amendments prevent municipalities from relevying previously accrued water charges on or after May 11, 2021 until either the end of the COVID-19 state of emergency or December 31, 2021, whichever is earlier.

All water suppliers must notify residential and small business customers of the protections afforded under the law.

Please be advised that service termination and relevying past due water charges is prohibited for an additional 180 days after either the COVID-19 state of emergency expires or December 31, 2021, whichever is earlier, for those residential and small business customers who have experienced a change in financial circumstances due to the COVID-19 state of emergency.

If you are a resident or small business that has experienced a change in financial circumstances due to the COVID-19 state of emergency and would like to request relief from service termination and relevying during the 180 days after the COVID-19 state of emergency expires, you must contact Michael P. Phillips, Administrator at 845-928-9514-ext: 1256 or WoodburyWater@HotMail.com no later than July 30, 2021.

Please be further advised that the law ***does not eliminate a customer's obligation to pay accrued charges***. However, customers who have experienced a change in financial circumstances due to the COVID-19 state of emergency must be provided with the opportunity to enter into a deferred payment agreement without the imposition of deposits, late fees, or penalties.

If you are a residential or small business customer who has experienced such a change in financial circumstances and wish to enter into a deferred payment agreement to address any outstanding or accrued payments, you must contact Michael P. Phillips, Administrator at 845-928-9514 ext: 1256 or WoodburyWater@HotMail.com no later than July 30, 2021. Additional information and supporting documentation from customers seeking to enter into a deferred payment agreement may be required.

Customers that do not request protection from service termination, or relevying, or do not enter into a deferred payment agreement, will be subject to the enforcement and lien provisions authorized by State and local law upon the expiration of the Public Service Law's protections.

Please direct all other questions and concerns to Michael P. Phillips, Administrator at 845-928-9514-ext: 1256 or WoodburyWater@HotMail.com.