

Town of Ashland, New Hampshire

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO THE RESIDENTS OF ASHLAND, NEW HAMPSHIRE

March 16, 2020

TOWN OFFICE AND UTILITY BUILDING WILL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC BEGINNING TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020 (UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE)

We continue to actively monitor the COVID-19 situation, which is rapidly evolving. The Town is committed to the continued health and optimal safety of our residents as well as our employees, and we intend to do our part to "flatten the curve" of the COVID-19 pandemic. To that end, we have decided that effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020, Town Office and Utility Building will be closed to the public until further notice and the Transfer Station will not accept recyclables at this time.

However, this does not mean that we will not be working. In today's world, most of the transactions for our residents can be done online or arranged via phone or email. Resident questions can and will be answered via phone or email. We already offer the ability to conduct many resident transactions online, including vehicle registration renewals, the payment of taxes, dog license renewals, water, sewer, and electric bills. And as a last resort, you may schedule an appointment in Town Office with the appropriate Town personnel to complete your transaction, our Town Office phone number is 603-968-4432.

We respectfully ask that if you are sick you make every attempt to conduct your business online or via phone or email. Employees have been advised to discretely refuse to provide services to any person who is obviously sick with COVID-19 symptoms such as runny nose, coughing, sneezing, shortness of breath or fever.

Of course, our Police and Fire Departments will continue to serve the residents of our Town on a "business as usual" basis; however, we ask that you please keep all non-emergency calls to a minimum so that they may devote their time to those residents in need of emergency services. If you have non-emergency COVID-19 related questions, please call 2-1-1 (a state hotline manned 24/7 specifically for such questions).

We will be monitoring all local developments related to COVID-19, and as your Town officials, we are committed to timely and ongoing communication about any and all changes to our operating status as well as any recommendations to the public from public health and other government officials.

The Town website address is <u>www.ashland.nh.gov</u> and we encourage you to visit the website frequently for news and updates.