

Public Notice – Changes in Operations

May 15, 2020

A Message from the Select Board

Benton Residents and Businesses,

Recently the Governor has initiated a multi-phase plan to lift restrictions. Benton as you know is located in Kennebec County and as a result is one of the counties first selected to benefit from the change. As we have considered options for reopening, we determined it was necessary to certain preparations; 1) the office has been professionally cleaned and we will continue to have the public area cleaned professionally on a weekly basis, 2) barriers between employees and staff are installed at the counters, 3) we have secured hand sanitizer which will be available in the public area, and 4) the public area will be wiped down each evening until further notice.

There are some recent important updates regarding the latest Governor's Executive Order, please read thru these so you are aware of the changes:

Office of The Governor, Executive Order Update

May 13, 2020 - Executive Order No. 53 (EO No. 53)

Reinstating Vehicle Registration Requirements

Within 30 days of the effective date of the Order (May 12, 2020), vehicles required to be registered in Maine with an expiring or expired registration must be registered by June 11, 2020. The Select Board encourages residents to use the online Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicle Rapid Renewal Program available online at <https://www1.maine.gov/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/>

March 17, 2020 (PL 2019, Ch. 617 § D-1)

Setting 2020 Property Tax Due Dates

Emergency legislation enacted on March 17, 2020, authorizes municipal officers to commit property taxes based on last year's budget. On May 15, 2020 the Select Board decision was to move forward as allowed by the emergency legislation with the guidance of the Tax Assessor.

Town Office Changes - Effective May 15, 2020

Town Office Operating Hours:

To ensure we meet the many needs of our residents we will continue to offer dedicated phone and email support and in addition we will be adding in-person office hours. Schedule will be as follows:

Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m. - Office hours

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. - Phone and email support

Protocol for Accessing the Office

- 1) CDC Social Distancing will be practiced.
- 2) Two individuals will be allowed in the office at a time to conduct transactions.
- 3) Residents may wait in their vehicle or wait in the marked area in the parking lot.

Contact Information

The contact information is **207-453-7191** or bentonstaff@gmail.com.

Select Board Contact Information:

Douglas Dixon –	207-314-4646 or dpxdixonsb52@gmail.com
Robin Cyr –	207-649-0111 or robincyr.benton@gmail.com
Brandy Sloan –	207-649-8051 or brandysloan.benton@gmail.com

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General Assistance: All applications for general assistance will be done by phone. Persons seeking general assistance should call **207-453-7191** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Outside of these hours and for emergency only please call **207-649-8051**.

Code Enforcement – For building permits and questions concerning projects, please call David Savage at **207-649-4760**. We will process these via phone, email and regular mail.

Select Board, Planning Board and other Committees: The Select Board and Planning Board will operate any meetings via web conference call. Conference call connection information will be posted with the meeting announcement.

We recognize that we never have seen anything close to the impact this pandemic is having on our lives and community. We ask that you remain patient as we gently step into transition of the office to provide access to the public. Please know we are doing so with the resident's and employee safety foremost in our thoughts.

Best Regards,

Town of Benton, Select Board