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Masser, Michelle

From: Lashway, Lisa
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 11:27 AM
To: Sohl, Bill; Maniscalco, Sherry; Masser, Michelle
Subject: FW: GovConnect Update: June 2, 2010

Lisa Lashway
Township Clerk
Township of Mount Olive
P.O. Box 450
Budd Lake, NJ 07828
973-691-0900 Ext. 7290

-----Original Message-----

From: egg@dca.state.nj.us [mailto:egg@dca.state.nj.us]
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 9:52 AM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: GovConnect Update: June 2, 2010

Dear GovConnect Colleague:

There's a lot going on so keep up-to-date with each issue of GovConnect News. For all the details login to GovConnect now at: <http://Portal.NJ.Gov>.

New Items:

1. Local Finance Notice 2010-12 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/10lfns/2010-12.doc) provides guidance regarding "The Impact of Chapter 2, P.L. 2010 on Local Unit Health Benefits Programs." The Notice provides important guidance to all local employers, those who are members of the State Health Benefits Program and those who are not. The law has significant differences between the two, so this guidance is very important, especially to organizations that are not members of the State Health Benefits Program (including those with commercial insurance, are self-insured, or members of a health insurance fund).
2. Calendar Year Municipalities that have not introduced their budgets by June 4 may have their elected officials subject to personal fines unless a request for extension is filed with the Division or an appeal is filed with the Local Finance Board. Municipalities that will not introduce their budget by June 4 and have not yet filed a request for extension to a specific

date (with justification for the delay) should do so immediately. The request can be made by e-mail to dlgs@dca.state.nj.us.

3. Chief Financial Officers are advised that when required by Division of Local Government Services, CY 2010 budget examinations may not be completed prior to a municipality's hearing date. This is due to the large number of budget hearings scheduled through the end of May. If the CFO does not receive budget examination notes from the Division prior to the hearing, the scheduled public hearing must still be held as advertised, however, budget adoption will need to be postponed. Once the Division completes the review, the CFO will receive the examination notes from a DLGS staff member. Questions concerning this can be e-mailed to the Division at dlgs@dca.state.nj.us.

4. The Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control has posted an important "Notice To Licensees and Municipal Issuing Authorities of Changes to Statute Governing Late-Filed Renewal Applications, N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.18" on their Division website at www.state.nj.us/lps/abc/index.html. The Municipal Clerk and ABC Board Secretary should immediately review these changes. Questions may be directed to Deputy Attorney General Lorinda Lasus at 609-633-6076.

5. A letter from the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development (<http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lisse/employee/Fireworks.html>) was recently sent to store owners regarding New Jersey's Fireworks Laws. If you have any questions or comments about the Fireworks Laws, feel free to contact the Office of Public Safety Compliance at 609-292-2096.

6. The Division of Pensions and Benefits has released guidance on implementing recently enacted laws related to changes in pensions and benefits. The laws are Chapters 1, 2, and 3 of the Laws of 2010. Guidance was sent to Pension Certifying Officers in each local unit.

The specific pension guidance issues are found on the Certifying Letter web page: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/coltr10.shtml.

The Pensions and Benefits specific guidance is as follows:

Chapter 3, P.L. 2010 - Disability Benefit Changes to the PERS and TPAF:
www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/coltr10.shtml#ch3perstpaf

Chapter 2, P.L. 2010 - Changes to the SHBP and SEHBP:
www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/coltr10.shtml#ch2faq

Chapter 2, P.L. 2010 - Changes to the SHBP and SEHBP:
www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/coltr10.shtml#ch2shbpsehbp

Chapter 1, P.L. 2010 - Pension Changes to the PERS, TPAF, and DCRP:
www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/coltr10.shtml#ch1perstpaf

Chapter 1, P.L. 2010 - Pension Changes to the PFRS:
www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/coltr10.shtml#ch1pfrs

7. Forms for the certification of property tax deductions and veteran deductions were electronically sent to Tax Collectors on May 6 via the GovConnect system. The forms should be printed out and completed as they have in the past. The completed paper forms with original signatures should be mailed by collectors IN DUPLICATE to the County Boards of Taxation on or before JUNE 5, 2010. The boards in turn shall mail hard copies to the Division of Taxation. If you experienced any difficulties with the attachments, please call Jessica Lanna at (609) 943-4399 or Elizabeth Ashton at (609) 292-1788.

Conferences:

1. DCA's Main Street New Jersey Program is accepting registrations for the June session of its 2010 Downtown Revitalization & Management Institute program. The two-day seminar on June 21 and 22 at Thomas Edison State College in Trenton will explore how to revitalize downtown commercial districts for New Jersey's new economy. Day 1 will cover such key topics as strategies to retain local businesses and reinventing downtowns for the next decade. Day 2 will focus on bringing business back to Main Street and ways to improve local economies today. You must register by June 18 (www.mainstreetnewjersey.com/regform.html). For general information about the Main Street New Jersey program, please contact Director; Jef Buehler at (609) 633-9769 or jefb@dca.state.nj.us.

2. The NJRA Redevelopment Training Institute (NJRA RTI) will be holding a one-day "Green Building Workshop" on June 23 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Thomas Edison State College in Trenton. Consultants and developers well-versed in sustainable design, construction, operations, and planning will identify ways to reduce the burden on the environment in terms of resources, land use, and air and water quality. Lenders, business service providers and governmental agencies will also be available to share their resources and programs that can facilitate sustainable development practices. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.njra.us/rti> or call the RTI Hot Line: 609-292-0031.

Reminders:

The Division recently released two new Local Finance Notices with applicability to all local units:

1. 2010-9 provides guidance specific to agencies operating under the Local Public Contracts Law and Public School Contracts Law. It covers the application of the State Comptroller's Best Practices recommendation for competitive contracting and other non-lowest responsible bid procurement practices. Online at: www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/10lfns/2010-09.doc.

2. 2010-10 provides important guidance that affects all new contracts for collection and transportation of most solid waste and recyclables. P.L. 2009, c. 88, effective July 15, 2009, requires that these contracts include requirements for contractors to provide periodic wage reports to the contracting agency. The law affects all government agencies. Online at: www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/10lfns/2010-10.doc.

3. Local Finance Notice 2010-7 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/10lfns/2010-07.doc) "2009 Tax Lien Law Revision - P.L. 2009, c. 320" reviews the entire law and summarizes each change to the Law. Tax Collectors and other interested parties may want to attend one of the seminars on the law that will be announced in the coming months.

4. The New Jersey State Library has created a web site that assists New Jersey residents and businesses to help them through tough economic times. The site has a wide range of useful links that may be of assistance to local officials that are trying to assist their residents address their concerns. Local officials should keep the site handy and if appropriate, promote its use in their publications. The site: <http://gethelp.njlibraries.org/> has links and references in the following areas:

- New Jersey Work Tools
- New Jersey Financial Tools
- New Jersey Housing Tools
- New Jersey Health Tools
- New Jersey Parental Tools
- Tools for Seniors

5. The following information concerns actions local officials can take to help homeowners that are facing foreclosure or other housing related problems facing residents:

- Foreclosure Fast Facts: A 2-page listing of assistance, numbers to call, and general assistance, including counseling agencies experienced in foreclosure: http://www.nj.gov/dca/hmfa/foreclosureprevention_resources.pdf

- The Mayor's Combat Kit: Materials and sources of information on buying a home, mortgage assistance and foreclosure, designed especially for Mayors: <http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/njhope/mayorkit.html>

- The NJ HOPE (Home Ownership Preservation Effort) website provides information about resources that are available for homeowners who are delinquent in their mortgage payments, need counseling or have questions:
<http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/njhope/>

6. The DEP Bulletin contains a list of construction permit applications recently filed or acted upon by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The latest issue was released May 26, 2010. This issue can be viewed online at: www.nj.gov/dep/bulletin/bu2010_0526.pdf.

THIS E-MAIL HAS BEEN SENT TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICIALS: MUNICIPAL CLERK, Chief Financial Officer, Tax Collector / County Freeholder Board Clerk, Chief Financial Officer / Authority Officials / Fire District Officials / Procurement Officials.

PLEASE REMEMBER: If your e-mail address changes please make the change to your GovConnect User Profile. If you change employers please send us the details by replying to this e-mail. Helpdesk 609.943.4724