TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION #20-153

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF RESOLUTION #20-141, AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF THE GRACE PERIOD FOR PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus, ("COVID-19") is a severe, potentially fatal respiratory illness, which is transmitted from person-to-person contact. On March 9, 2020, Governor Murphy declared that a Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency existed in New Jersey because of COVID-19. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, State and Federal public health experts, including those at the Center for Disease Control ("CDC"), believe COVID-19 would continue to spread at exponential rates, unless aggressive action was taken to reduce person-to-person contact. The highly contagious and life-threatening nature of COVID-19 required implementation of rigorous social distancing, including the closure of public places throughout the State to reduce the risk and rate of infection; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of these unprecedented conditions, the Governor of the State of New Jersey has instituted many restrictions which have severely curtailed the operations of many businesses and employment of residents in Raritan Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Raritan recognizes that these restrictions have placed a financial burden on its businesses and residents; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2020, c. 34 allows the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to order various exceptions and extensions of deadlines when a public health emergency exists pursuant to the Emergency Health Powers Act, P.L. 2005, c. 222 (N.J.S.A. 26:13-1 et seq.), a state of emergency exists pursuant to the New Jersey Civil Defense and Disaster Control Act, P.L. 1942, c. 251 (N.J.S.A. App. A. 9.33 et seq.), or both has been declared by the Governor and is in effect; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee adopted Resolution #20-141 which extended the tax grace period in anticipation of such an order from the Director of the Division of Local Government Services which in part may include the following:

1) Authorizes municipalities to institute a grace period pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 for the first $10,000.00 determined to be due and required to be paid for the property tax quarter, not to extend beyond the first calendar day of the next calendar month immediately following the quarterly property tax installment date and under conditions the Director may specify.

2) Extends the dates for the payment of taxes by a municipality due to a county, a school district, or any other taxing district under Chapter 4 of Title 54 of the Revised Statutes or any other law, which extension shall be equal to the number of days of the extended grace period referenced in the preceding paragraph.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Raritan, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the Township of Raritan hereby rescinds Resolution #20-141 and authorizes the following:

1) The tax grace period shall be extended for the first $10,000.00 determined to be due and required to be paid for the property tax quarter, not to extend beyond the first calendar day of the next calendar month immediately following the quarterly property tax installment date and under conditions the Director may specify.

2) The tax payments made to a county, school district or any other taxing district under Chapter 4 of Title 54 of the Revised Statutes or any other law may be extended equal to the number of days of the first calendar day of the next calendar month immediately following the quarterly property tax installment date.

3) That this resolution will only become effective if the Director of the Division of Local Government Services orders both 1 and 2 above.

4) This Resolution shall take effect only upon an order of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services directing both 1 and 2 above and shall remain in effect through December 31, 2020 or upon any subsequent order by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services that rescinds the tax grace period, whichever shall occur first.

ATTEST:

Lisa Fania, RMC
Township Clerk

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN

Jeff Kuhl
Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Lisa Fania, Clerk of the Township of Raritan, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true, complete and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Raritan at a meeting held on June 30, 2020.

Lisa Fania, RMC
Township Clerk