COVID-19 Update
March 13, 2020

Greetings. I write to advise residents on the Town’s policies concerning the coronavirus pandemic. Our policies are evolving day by day, as the situation changes, but they will always be guided by two principles:

- First, the only proper posture for government is to take the threat very seriously, but in the hope that it will be less severe than feared.
- Secondly, the reason we take the threat seriously is so that we might always be here to make your life better. The next few months may well be difficult, but our goal is to find ways to ease your burden.

Based on these two simple principles, we have implemented the following policies:

1. We urge citizens to follow the CDC’s precautions for keeping yourself and your home safe. Please.
2. We have instructed employees exhibiting cold or flu symptoms to take a day off work to seek medical advice. If their doctor recommends self-quarantine, we will pay them as if they were at work. (Yes, there is some chance of abuse with this policy, but we have a great group of employees here. Plus, I know that they know that I’ll know if they abuse it!)
3. We are reducing the size of shifts at the water plant and asking off-duty operators to refrain from high-risk behavior.
4. The police will seek to eliminate as much personal contact as possible, except in emergency situations. This policy is antithetical to community policing, but it is short-term.
5. We have seen no data suggesting that our moderate-sized gatherings at Sipe Center constitute an unreasonable health risk, so for now, the shows will go on. That said, we will refund ticketholders’ purchase price for any live shows through July 1, if the ticketholder is uncomfortable attending.
   a. The Trouble Notes have canceled their April 3 performance because of the President’s travel ban. We will contact ticketholders to arrange refunds.
6. All public parks are open, according to their normal schedules.
7. 201 Green Street remains open, according to its normal schedule. The only change in service we anticipate is the suspension of passport services.
8. Arey Hall is still available for private functions.
9. We are dedicating extra staff to wiping down every horizontal and vertical surface we own. (Within reason.)
10. There are no changes to our public meeting schedule.
11. If schools are closed for an extended period, we will make accommodations for employees to care for their children. (We would like to be able to help all residents with childcare, but we see no good options for doing so.)

Especially now, we welcome your input on what more we might be doing. Call us at B-Connected, (540) 908-4212, anytime, day or night.