

EXECUTIVE ORDER

2020-10

May 5, 2020

Further Continuing the Date of the Tiverton Financial Town Referendum (FTR) from the Third Saturday in June (June 20, 2020) to a date no later than Sixty-Five Days after the FY 2021 State Budget is Enacted into Law

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex M. Azar, III, declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Honorable Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, issued Executive Order 20-02 declaring a state of emergency due to the outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Tiverton declared via Executive Order 2020-01 a municipal emergency on March 16, 2020 which was later ratified by the Tiverton Town Council; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has caused a health crisis and an economic crisis caused by the closing of many businesses, widespread layoffs, and the loss of permanent employment for many individuals, including Tiverton residents; and

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island has closed the Twin River-Tiverton Casino, recently authorized the borrowing of \$300 million to bridge an expected cash flow and revenue shortfall caused by declining income tax, sales tax and lottery/gaming revenues; and

WHEREAS, the decline in the federal, state, and local economy will effect the local budget process and the revenues need to operate and support municipal and school budgets;

WHEREAS, the FTR is scheduled for the third Saturday in June (June 20) as a result of Executive Order 2020-07 dated March 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, since postponing the date of the FTR, it has become evident that the State of Rhode Island and its General Assembly have yet to meet, hold hearings, or take any action to finalize a FY 2021 budget;

WHEREAS, the local budget process is dependent on accurate revenue estimates, state educational aid, and other grants; and

WHEREAS, restrictions on gatherings of five or more people currently exist which would make a public hearing on any municipal budget difficult and a larger gathering may endanger the health of our residents; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Laws §§ 30-15-12 and 30-15-13, as well as the Home Rule Charter of the Town of Tiverton Article IV, Section 405 authorizes the President of the Town Council “to declare a state of emergency which shall be ratified by the Council as soon as circumstances permit” to protect the public health, safety, and/or general welfare of the Town;

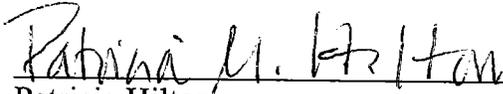
WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Laws §§30-15-12(b) and 30-15-9(e)(1) permit the chief executive officer to suspend the provisions of any statute, regulation, or requirement prescribing the procedures for the conduct of town business, or the orders, rules, regulations of any town, board, or agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, rule or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with this emergency; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patricia Hilton, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the President of the Tiverton Town Council, pursuant to the Rhode Island General Laws and the Home Rule Charter of the Town of Tiverton do hereby order and direct the following:

1. The date of the Tiverton FTR is moved from June 20, 2020 to a Saturday no later than sixty-five (65) days after the fiscal year 2021 state budget is enacted into law;
2. All schedules related to the FTR as forth in Article III, section 301 (a) of the Tiverton Home Rule Charter and previously published by the Town Clerk are reset, deferred, or continued as necessary to reflect and conform to the date of the FTR as set forth in paragraph 1.

This Order shall take effect immediately upon execution and remain in full force and effect and with the consent of the Town Council, it shall continue in effect during the Declared State of Emergency.

So Ordered:



Patricia Hilton

Title: Town Council President, Town of Tiverton

Date: 5/4/20