



Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino, center, announces the proposed extension.

## Tax extensions for fed workers advance

BY JESSE COBURN

jesse.coburn@newsday.com

Officials in Hempstead and Oyster Bay advanced measures Tuesday to extend the deadline to pay property taxes for federal workers whose pay was withheld during the recent government shutdown.

The extensions would give furloughed federal workers the option to pay the first half of their general property taxes up to 90 days after the Feb. 11 deadline without penalty, the officials said.

Hempstead Senior Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby introduced an emergency resolution at a town board meeting Tuesday night to grant federal workers who live in the town an extension.

"I represent many federal government workers in my councilmanic district," Goosby said in a statement. "I am determined to do everything possible to help them recover from the hardships that they have faced as a result of the federal government shutdown."

The Hempstead Town Board passed the measure in a 6-0 vote Tuesday night. Councilman Bruce Blakeman was absent.

Oyster Bay Town Supervisor Joseph Saladino said Tuesday his town board would vote on a similar measure at its meeting next Tuesday. "We're at the ready to help residents affected by the recent government shutdown," he said.

The State Legislature passed a bill last month enabling local municipalities to grant 90-day extensions to pay property taxes for federal workers affected by the shutdown.

There are an estimated 15,000 federal workers on Long Island, Newsday has reported. If they are to take advantage of extensions, Long Island municipalities, including Nassau and Suffolk counties as well as towns, cities and villages, must each pass a resolution to opt in.

Federal employees must show proper documentation and complete an online application to receive the extension in Oyster Bay, Saladino said.

With Rachel Uda

## MORTGAGE EXEC ADMITS TO \$8.9M FRAUD

A Nissequogue man pleaded guilty in federal court Tuesday to conspiring to commit wire and bank fraud by diverting \$8.9 million in loans — money that his firm received for mortgages — into personal expenses and into paying off other fraudulently obtained loans, prosecutors said.

Edward E. Bohm, 41, president of sales and an undisclosed owner of Garden City-based Vanguard Funding, entered the plea in U.S. District Court Judge Sandra J. Feuerstein's Central Islip courtroom, assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York Richard P. Donoghue said in a news release.

Bohm faces up to 30 years in prison, restitution, criminal forfeiture and a fine when sentenced on Dec. 17, prosecutors said. His attorney could not be immediately reached for comment.

Vanguard was a 33-branch mortgage lending institution licensed in several states when its executives were charged with cheating "warehouse lenders," financial firms that extend lines of credit to mortgage companies so they can lend to the public or refinance loans.

The plea marks the third time that a Vanguard official has pleaded guilty in connection with the scheme, prosecutors said.

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