

Summer Village of Birchcliff

Winter 2022 Newsletter



Greetings from Council and Administration.

We are committed to protecting our village values and improving community and quality of life while protecting the environment and your investment. This newsletter provides an update on the following:

1. 2022 budget and 3 year operating plan
2. 2022 wastewater utility increase
3. changes to law enforcement
4. bill payment options
5. Lacombe County Notice LAND USE BYLAW AMENDMENT TO ALLOW FOR A SPECIAL DISCRETIONARY USE TREATMENT CENTRE
6. reminder on ice huts

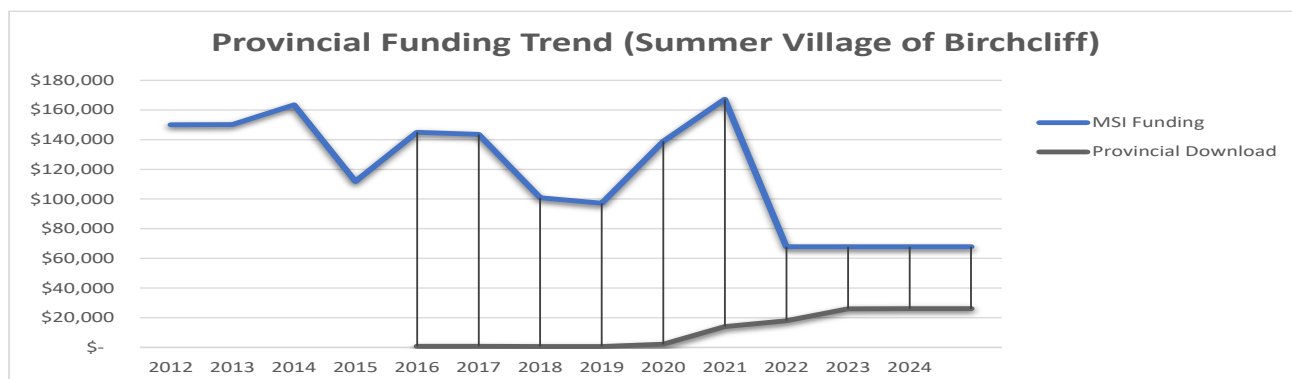
2022 Municipal Budget and 3 Year Operating Plan

Overview

Council approved the 2022 budget and 3 year operating plan in December. At the time of preparing the budget, our operating expenses were in-line with forecast providing a solid run rate going into 2022. Two key objectives going into the plan include keeping residential tax increases at a minimum while ensuring that we adequately shore up capital reserves as a result of provincial funding trends.

Key assumptions used to inform the budget and plan included a 2% inflation rate on expense items, 3% on Salaries and General Administration, and a 1% residential assessment growth rate for new and redevelopments.

There are two long term trends affecting the way in which we fund capital projects. In 2016, the province downloaded Family and Community Support Services charges onto municipalities and in 2019 began the transfer of RCMP service costs. Last fall the province announced that it would cut Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding by 60%. The cumulative effect from the above over the next four years will result in a reduction of \$500,000 in available reserves for use on capital projects for our village.



This budget seeks to mitigate the impact aforementioned as follows.

1. Over the next four years we will increase funding by \$130,000 to help pay for capital projects including road maintenance and resurfacing, shoreline restoration, and open space plans.
2. The province asserts that law enforcement coverage is suitably supplied through the RCMP and paid for by municipalities. Our experience with the current Peace Officer arrangement does not address our service level requirements and does not justify the current expense of \$30,000 per year. Birchcliff will not renew the 2022 contract.
3. The current in person credit card payment option used to pay Property Taxes, Utility and other bills comes with transactional charges billed directly to our municipality. Due to these additional charges, we will be discontinuing this payment option and residents will be able to choose from the following of options:
 - a. by joining our Tax Installment Plan program
 - b. in person by cheque or by debit
 - c. by cheque via mail
 - d. online by credit card using the PlastiQ system (found on our website)
 - e. by e-transfer
 - f. Administration is installing a drop box for afterhours drop off of physical cheques

Municipal expenses will increase by 3.59% for 2022. Together with an estimated municipal property assessment growth of 1%, the tax increase on a million-dollar property is estimated to be 1.59% or \$2.50 per month.

Estimates will be finalized in April when council passes the 2022 Mill Rate Bylaw.

2022 Sewer Bill

The Sylvan Lake Regional Wastewater Commission is represented by eight communities (Summer Villages of Birchcliff, Jarvis Bay, Norglenwold, Half Moon Bay, Sunbreaker Cove, the Town of Sylvan Lake, and the Counties of Lacombe and Red Deer). The Commission approves the operations budget.

In preparing the 2022 budget and plan, Administration made a number of assumptions. These include:

1. 2.5% default inflation rate, except for utilities which are 5% and insurance which is 8% over the next four years.
2. 2.5% increase from the City of Red Deer for services over the next 4 years.

Birchcliff residents will see a 2.5% increase in their 2022 sewer bill

Lacombe County Treatment Center

The County of Lacombe has provided the following information regarding their intent to permit a Treatment Center adjacent to the Summer Village of Birchcliff across from Range Road 14 and Township Road 392. The Sylvan Lake house will be used as a residence for a maximum of 12 women who will be part of a 90 day accredited program. Attached link and notice for additional information.

<https://www.lacombecounty.com/index.php/planning-projects/2181-developer-public-meeting-sylvan-lake-lakeside-recovery-centre>

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
LAND USE BYLAW AMENDMENT TO ALLOW FOR A SPECIAL DISCRETIONARY USE
“TREATMENT CENTRE” ON THE EXACT LAND Pt. SW-16-39-01-W5M**



FIRST PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is given that **WORK ON THAT INC.** is in the process to file an application to amend the Lacombe County Land Use Bylaw (LUB) to allow for a special discretionary use “Treatment Centre” on a 30.918 hectares (76.34 acres) property located at the intersection of Range Road 1-4 and Township Road 392, on the exact land Pt. SW-16-39-01-W5M.

A document describing the future requested usage will be available for consultation, and general public is invited to participate in a Public Meeting, by coming at the property, located at **1328 Township Road 392 on February 3, 2022 between 5:00PM and 7:00PM (Powerpoint presentation at 5:15PM)** where the project will be presented and the proponents will be available to take comments and answer questions.

Public Meeting Location:

1328 Township Road 392

Lacombe County, Alberta, T4E 2W6

A copy of the *Land Use Bylaw* amendment request and development information is available for viewing on the County’s website at www.lacombecounty.com.

Further information regarding this project can be obtained from:

Ben Trudeau, B. Sc. URB

Phone: (780) 916-0347

Email: im@workonthat.com

Mail: 10043 81 Avenue NW

Edmonton, AB, T6E 1W7

If you are unable to attend the public meeting or wish to provide additional comments, please send them directly to the developer by February 10, 2022.

Ice Huts

To protect the health of Alberta's waterbodies, encourage stewardship and promote conservation, anglers using ice shelters (huts) are now required to label their shelter if they are leaving it on the ice for longer than 24 hours. Label it in contrasting color with text 2.5cm or taller with the following information:

- Your Wildlife Identification Number (WIN), or
- Your Name and Telephone Number

You must remove the shelter by March 31.

On behalf of Council and Administration enjoy the rest of the winter keep safe and stay healthy.

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