

Summer Village of Birchcliff

Winter 2023 Newsletter



Greetings from Council and Administration.

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

1. 2023 budget
2. 2023 utility bill
3. 2023 recycling and waste management
4. New bylaw enforcement role
5. Reminder on ice huts

2023 Municipal Budget and 3 Year Operating Plan

Overview

Council approved the 2023 budget and 3 year operating plan in December. At the time of preparing the budget, operating expenses were in-line with forecasted values providing a solid run rate going into 2023.

One key assumption reflected as part of the 2023 budget includes a 2.7% residential assessment growth rate for new and redevelopments.

Inflation continues to impact the cost of operations. The November, 2022 Consumer Price Index was 6.6%.

Operating expense for 2023 are up 14%. and include the following:

Administration

18.9% \$37,650 includes the addition of a new Bylaw Officer and truck.

Public works

5.7% \$11,614 includes changes to our curb side waste management process and addition of new recycling program as well as snow removal for the walking path.

Protective Services

24.2% \$7,902 increase to downloaded RCMP costs from the province.

Council and Legislative

40.6% \$5,971 remuneration returning to pre-pandemic levels.

Budget Restructuring and impact to you

Curb side garbage pickup will be included as part of your utility bill and no longer part of taxation. The practice of charging a single rate for garbage pickup is fair and common in the province. The annual bill including garbage, landfill and recycling will be approximately \$163 or \$13.60 per month.

The municipal Mill Rate in 2023 will remain the same as last year so there will be no increases in taxes as long as your assessment remains unchanged.

2023 Utility Bill

As noted under budget restructuring, curb side pick-up will be included as part of your utility bill and no longer part of taxation. The annual bill including garbage, landfill and recycling will be approximately \$163.

There will be no change to your waste water (sewer) bill in 2023

The Waste Water Budget for 2024 includes a 33% reduction in transmission fees which will be passed along to you, reducing your waste water bill by approximately \$164.

Recycling Program

In support of our commitment to protecting the environment, we will roll out a curb side recycling program this summer. Residents will be provided with two bins, one for recycling and the other for garbage. Administration will provide greater detail as we get closer to implementation.

Bylaw Officer

Our organizational design work identified a number of gaps regarding our ability to manage bylaw infractions and enforcement as well as complaints received from the public.

The Bylaw Officer is a full-time role that will report to the CAO and will work closely with the Development Officer to improve Land Use Bylaw compliance.

The Bylaw Officer will be present in the Villages' managing bylaw infractions, enforcement and complaints received from the public and will have the powers required to issue fines and tickets.

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 2.5 cm 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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