



# Village of Nakusp Municipal Newsletter

January & February 2024

Volume 3 Edition 1

## The Uncomfortable Truth: Rates Will Be Increasing

Unfortunately, the Village will be increasing fees and taxes in 2024. Despite the many reasons why, let's focus on a significant overarching reason - our rates/taxes are far less than required. The residential Nakusp taxpayer only pays 58% of the average paid throughout BC. Further, our current water rates are less than half of the BC average. Low property taxes, utility rates, and fees may seem like a good idea for each of us, but this is short-sighted.

Low rates mean significant increases can be necessary if there is a catastrophic failure of municipal infrastructure. We will need more money to maintain or fix something should it suddenly fail, which is the current reality in other communities:

- Osoyoos predicts a total tax/fee increase of 39% in 2024 to address chronic underfunding and significant issues in water and sewer treatment systems. In 2024, water rates will increase from \$320 per year to \$1,133; sewer rates will double from \$380 to \$764.
- Princeton ranked as having the 7th lowest tax burden in BC, but it faces an overall increase of 35% in fees and property taxes. This includes a 10% increase plus massive utility increases to begin paying off a 7 million dollar loan the Community was forced to take to improve failing water and sewer infrastructure.

These two examples must be at the forefront of everyone's minds; however, we are doing our best to keep rate increases modest to avoid these scenarios. Across the province, for too long, people have demanded lower taxes and increased services; this doesn't work. The Village has fallen behind with infrastructure maintenance and contributions to our infrastructure reserves. You can see examples of this throughout the Village.

Nonetheless, your Village is taking action and, in 2023, has made progress with improved maintenance of our infrastructure. We still have a long way to go and will continue to make up ground. However, the only way we can do so is to ensure we adequately fund our reserves and operations through tax and fee increases. This includes having sufficient, trained staff to perform the required preventative maintenance and rehabilitation of our Village infrastructure.

**The dollars we pay in taxes and fees are necessary; they are investments in our Community and our collective prosperity.**

## Council Meeting Dates - 2024

Council meets twice a month except for July, August, September and December. Regular Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month unless that Monday is a holiday, in which case, the Council meeting will take place on the following Wednesday.

The upcoming Council meeting dates for January and February 2024 are:

**Monday, January 8 & 22, 2024**

**Monday, February 12 & 26, 2024**

Council starts promptly at 6:30 PM at the Emergency Services Building located at 300 8th Ave NW. All Council meetings are available for virtual attendance.

For the full 2024 Council meeting schedule, please visit our website, [www.nakusp.com](http://www.nakusp.com).



## Snow Season - We Need Your Help!

Village Operations is reminding everyone that we are still in the winter months, and the snow can show up at a moment's notice. Please ensure vehicles and trailers are not parked on boulevards or in the alleys.

We need the alleys and boulevards clear to pile snow when plowing. The Village can remove anything left on the boulevard or alleys at your expense.

### Nakusp Hot Springs

The Nakusp Hot Springs is anticipating some work to be completed on the small pool in the near future. With no set date, we ask you to watch for messaging on their website and social media channels. We apologize for the inconvenience, and thank you for your patience while repairs are underway.

If you haven't yet, follow Nakusp Hot Springs on Facebook!

Moonlight Dips will continue in the new year! With the first moonlight dip on January 25th, 2024 and again on February 24, 2024, the pools will be open until midnight.

Operational Hours:  
Sunday through to Saturday  
9:30 AM - 9:30 PM

Contact us at:  
[info@nakusphotsprings.com](mailto:info@nakusphotsprings.com) OR (250) 265.4528  
[www.nakusphotsprings.com](http://www.nakusphotsprings.com)

### Dog Licence Renewals

Did you know that a discount is available for Dog licences purchased by January 31st of each year?

Come into the Village Office to renew your dog's licence and get your 2024 tag!



Did you know that the best time to prune trees and dispose of the resulting ground fuels is the winter and early spring? Don't forget to contact your local Fire Department for a burning permit if you plan to have a large outdoor fire.

The Nakusp FireSmart program continues to operate through the winter as a year-round local source of information on wildfire preparedness and prevention. If you are interested in learning more or have questions/concerns, email Noel Ballard at [firesmart@nakusp.com](mailto:firesmart@nakusp.com).

### Ice Melt and Sidewalks

Rock salt, or sodium chloride, is widely used for deicing because it's affordable and effective at melting ice. However, it can have some detrimental effects on concrete surfaces. Over time, it can cause spalling or erosion of the concrete. Rock salt can also harm vegetation and wildlife when washed away into nearby soil or waterways. It is hard on the paws of pets.

Given these potential issues, many municipalities and property owners are exploring alternative deicing agents like calcium chloride or magnesium chloride, which are less damaging to concrete while remaining effective at melting ice. Using these alternatives can help reduce the environmental impact and potential harm to surrounding vegetation and wildlife. Calcium chloride and magnesium chloride are effective at lower temperatures and work relatively quickly. Using sand or kitty litter can help improve traction without causing damage to the concrete.

Always prioritize safety and consider using a combination of methods for the best results: clearing snow promptly, using ice melt sparingly but effectively, and providing traction aid when needed.

### Business Licence Renewals

Business licence renewal reminders were mailed out in November. Please note that all business licences are to be renewed by March 31st of each year.

Please bring your renewal application with you when you come to see us. 😊

### A Message from the Fire Chief

Replace all smoke alarms, including those that use 10 year batteries and hard-wired alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if the don't respond properly when doing your monthly checks.

Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.

### Short Term Vacation Rental - Business Licences

With the adoption of **Zoning Bylaw No. 729, 2023**, the Village of Nakusp can now regulate Short Term Vacation Rentals. For anyone operating a Short Term Vacation Rental please note of the following brief information. More details can be found on our website, under Municipal Services/Bylaws/Search our document library.

**3.24** - The following shall apply in zones where short-term rental is a permitted use:

- (a)** A valid business licence must be issued by the Village for operation.
- (b)** A maximum of one short-term rental is permitted on a Parcel.
- (c)** A short-term rental may not operate on the same Parcel where a Bed and Breakfast, Hotel, or Tourist Accommodation is operating.
- (d)** A short-term rental may operate within a principal or accessory dwelling unit pursuant to the conditions of use stated in Section 6 (please review bylaw).
- (e)** Parking for the principal or accessory dwelling unit in which the short-term rental will operate must be provided in accordance with Section 4.

***Do you have questions? Please contact us in the office Monday to Friday 8AM - 4PM.***