

# Village of Bethune – 2020 Annual Letter

Please find enclosed with this 2020 Newsletter official copy of your 2020 Tax Notice.  
The following provides some general information and comments on certain matters pertaining to the operations of the Village of Bethune. For more information visit the Village’s website at:  
[www.villageofbethune.com](http://www.villageofbethune.com)



## 2020 Budget and Tax Policy Information

The 2019 Operating and Capital Budget was considered and passed by the Council of the Village of Bethune on April 7, 2020.  
The following Tax Policy information was passed and applied to the Total Taxable Assessment for the Village of \$39,801,445:

2020 Municipal Millrate –5.07 mills  
Minimum Tax – \$175.00 – Ag Land, Res Land, Commercial Land  
Minimum Tax - \$675.00 Land & Improvements – Ag, Res, Comm.

Applying the above Tax Policy to the Taxable Assessment results in a Municipal Tax Levy of approximately \$222,892.00.  
**The 2020 Millrate remains the same as 2019. The Minimum Tax threshold for 2020 also remains unchanged from 2019 for each assessment category.**

The following notations illustrate the departmental revenues and expenditures for the Village of Bethune. Municipal Operating Revenues, excluding any capital grant allocations that may be received, total \$828,500; operating expenses, excluding depreciation of asset calculations and capital purchases total 650,700.00 are allocated to the following sources and categories:

REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Municipal Taxes	31.73 %	General Government	21.65 %
Fees/Charges/Interest	3.67 %	Protective Services	9.79 %
Utilities (water/sewer)	31.42 %	Transportation	24.08 %
Grants	18.20 %	Environmental Health	7.90 %
Internal Transfers	14.19 %	Public Health/Welfare	1.18%
		Recreation/Culture	2.58 %
		Utility Services	32.81 %

Depreciation and capital expenses for the Village of Bethune total \$193,900.00 for 2020.

## MUNICIPAL CAPTIAL PROJECTS - VILLAGE OF BETHUNE - 2020

The Village of Bethune will see a number of capital projects and purchases started and completed in 2019. With the continuing growth of the community and the requirement to meet service needs and Provincial requirements the municipality has targeted the following important capital project for 2020:

- Scheduled annual street surfacing projects;
- Lift station building and pump upgrading.

Future Years capital works will include

- Public works equipment replacement
- Water plant back up motor.

### Community Volunteers Needed

Many organizations in the Village of Bethune depend on committed volunteers in order to provide services and programs.  
The Village of Bethune is seeking interested persons wishing to volunteer on the Bethune Local Library Board, the Bethune Housing Authority and Bethune Cemetery.  
For more information please contact the Municipal Office at 306-638-3188.

The Council of the Village of Bethune wishes to THANK all those in the community who volunteer their time and effort to provide youth, adult and senior programs and activities.  
**Your hard work is greatly appreciated!**

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## **RECREATIONAL BACKYARD FIRES**

1. No person shall ignite or set an open air fire unless the following measures are taken to limit their spread:
  - a) Fires must be contained in a non-combustible receptacle constructed of cement, brick or sheet metal and must be maintained in conformance with good engineering practices.
2. The fuel for open-air fires may consist only of charcoal or cut, seasoned wood.  
The burning of the following material is prohibited:
  - a) Rubbish;
  - b) Garden refuse;
  - c) Manure;
  - d) Livestock or animal carcasses;
  - e) Any material classified as a dangerous goods; and
  - f) Any material which when burned will generate black smoke or an offensive odor including insulation from electrical coring or equipment, asphalt roofing materials, hydrocarbons, plastics, rubber materials, creosoted wood or any similar material.
3. All outdoor fires shall have responsible supervision at all times.
4. Open-air fires must not be set in windy conditions conducive to creating a running fire or a nuisance to another person.
5. If smoke from an open-air fire causes an unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment of another person's property, the fire must be extinguished immediately.
6. The property owner/occupant is responsible for any or all damages as a result of burning.

**Remember to use caution when having a recreational fire, especially during dry and windy conditions.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO ABIDE BY ALL FIRE BAN NOTIFICATIONS WHEN THEY ARE IN EFFECT.**

## **BUILDING AND LOT DEVELOPMENT – YOUR PROJECT – YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each year a number of inquiries are made to whether or not Building Permits are necessary for all kinds of different types of development.

First and foremost, all municipalities in Saskatchewan are responsible for the orderly and regulated development within their municipal boundaries. As well within today's mortgage requirements, insurance requirements and an onus on ALL municipalities to ensure residential and commercial buildings are constructed to a minimum standard, it is only appropriate to advise and re-enforce the Village of Bethune's Building Development procedures and policies.

There are important steps to follow when considering building development and lot development. Building Permits are required when: new construction is contemplated; major building renovations where structural changes are necessary; and when buildings are moved into the municipality.

Prior to any construction or alteration of buildings, the proper municipal approval must be obtained. Plans for new construction and major renovations are subject to the Development Permit Application process. The Development Permit Application and construction details must be submitted so the Village's Building Inspector may review the development permit application, accompanying building plans and specification to apply the National Building Code of Canada Regulations and Provincial Fire Regulations. Once the plan have been reviewed by a building inspector appointed by the municipality, and alterations made if necessary, the municipality may approve the Development Permit Application.

**NO WORK MAY COMMENCE UNTIL THE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AND BUILDING PERMIT HAVE BEEN ISSUED.**

Owners and contractors should be aware that when the Building Inspector performs onsite inspections to review development conformity to regulations, any deviations or deficiencies found outside of what was approved on the Building Development Permit Form, costs to remedy such alterations or deviations are the owners' responsibility. The municipality shall not be held liable for such costs.

IT IS the responsibility of the owner and contractor to follow the proper building and development codes.

Not all types of development require Development Permits. Such things as decks or sheds less than 100 square feet, fences, or cosmetic work like window replacement, siding or shingling do not require Building Permits. It should be noted however, in the case of fences and sheds, requirements under the Zoning Bylaw still require to be adhered to with regards to building yard requirements.

These steps ensure your building, whether residential or commercial, may be constructed in accordance to any national, provincial and local regulation. Again, this is extremely important as financial institutions and the insurance industry are becoming more and more focused on ensuring their investments are meeting minimum construction and development standards.

## **LOT DEVELOPMENT AND LANDSCAPING**

Landscaping and beautifying your property may not require approvals from the municipality, however some steps should be taken to ensure the Village and neighboring property owners are aware of what may be done. As an example, fencing and border tree or hedge planting should be done in consultation with neighbors so both parties may be aware of what developing is planned and how it may affect each property.

When planting trees and shrubs on a corner lot, owners must be mindful of sightlines so not to obstruct intersection traffic views that becoming potentially liable for incidents that may occur as a result of an obstruction.

When considering building a fence, the property owner should contact the municipality to see, if property pins may be located. If the municipality cannot find proper lot markers, then a survey company must be contacted and be brought in to establish the lot pins in their proper location. The cost of such work is the responsibility of the property owner.

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## **Tax and Utility Payments**

All Tax and Utility payments can be paid in a few different ways. For your convenience and time saving we offer online payments or e-transfers. It is simple and easy way to pay your bills. If you are busy or do not have time for small things like bill payments, simply go online to your bank account, select Village of Bethune as your Payee and proceed with the payment or, you can select recurring payment and the same amount will be debited from the account every month. The other option is e-transfer that allows you to send money using an e-mail address. It is very convenient and an easy option that allows you to pay your bills from your home or work.

As well payment options also include: cheque, cash or debit.

Stop by the municipal office and make a payment. After hours cheque payments may be deposited into the drop-in box that is now located at the new municipal office: 101 Railway Avenue, Bethune.

## **WASTE COLLECTION – LANDFILL SITE**

The following is the Residential Waste Collection Schedule:

Entire Community – every Thursday

KIND REMINDERS:

- All refuse being deposited in the residential containers, including grass clippings, garden refuse and leaves, must be bagged.
- Due to the fully automated system, bags left outside the containers will not be picked up.
- Waste bins should be placed at the front street in early morning of collection day so not to be missed.
- Waste bins require to be removed from the streets when pickup is complete so as not to become an unnecessary obstacle for vehicles and maintenance equipment.

### **LANDFILL SITE OPERATION:**

From April 15, 2020 (Saturdays: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Wednesdays: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM)

The Landfill Site is closed during the winter months.

The site may be opened for special circumstances with the Council's consent.

## **Drinking Water Quality and Compliance** **Annual Notice to Consumers**

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment requires that at least once each year, waterworks owners provide notification to consumers of the quality of water produced and supplied as well as information on the performance of the waterworks in submitting samples as required by a Minister's Order or Permit to Operate a waterworks. The summary of the Village of Bethune water quality and sample submission compliance record from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 is currently available on the Village of Bethune website. Visit [www.villageofbethune.com](http://www.villageofbethune.com)

For more information on Provincial Standards readers are directed to the Government of Saskatchewan website – <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/live/health-and-healthy-living/health-topics-awareness-and-prevention/home-and-community-safety/water-quality-and-testing#water-quality>

## **COVID – 19: To Flush or Not to Flush**

More people than usual will be using disinfectant wipes right now. Please know that wastewater plants have trouble processing them. They need to be disposed of in the waste bins...not flushed down the toilets. ALL wipes, including baby wipes, flushable wipes, napkins, paper towels and tissues clog up the pipes, pumps and equipment at the wastewater plant. Please make sure to dispose such products as advised on the package you use.

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## 2020 – Municipal Election year

2020 year is Municipal Election Year with municipal elections Province wide scheduled for November 09,2020. The following Council positions are as follows: Mayor and 4 members of Council. For information on Municipal Elections candidate and voter eligibility visit:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/municipal-administration/elections/election-procedures>.

## 2021 – Assessment Revaluation Year

2021 is a reassessment year in the province of Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) will be updating property valuations to reflect a base date of January 1, 2019. The Village of Bethune will be provided with preliminary 2021 assessment information in late 2020. Once the information is received it will be reviewed by the Council and information on the impacts of the 2021 Revaluation will be sent out to ratepayers in early 2021.

## Attention Dog Owners!

Dog owners are responsible for keeping their dogs leashed or contained on their own property.

No dogs should be running at large at any time!

Each dog should be licenced at the beginning of each year – total for 1 dog \$10.00. The licence is valid for one year only and should be renewed by the end of December or beginning of January the following year.

Each household allowed to have only 3 (three) domestic animals as per Bylaw of the Village of Bethune.

Please make sure your dog not making an excessive noise that disturbs your neighbours.

Failure to all the above can cause a fine to the pet owner. Please refer to the Bylaw 2013-05 that can be found on our website: [www.villageofbethune.com](http://www.villageofbethune.com).

The spring is here! All dog owners kindly advised to clean up after their pets. It is your responsibility to keep clean the area where your walk with the animal. Please respect the village and all residents living nearby.

## Dust Control – For Your Information

The severity of influence on health depends on the type of dust, concentration, exposure duration, etc. Apart from disturbing respiratory system processes by mechanical properties of particles, dust also has a negative influence due to its chemical characteristics. Dust can be toxic to a certain extent, if it contains metal, PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) or other organic compounds, endotoxin, etc. These compounds can be contained in almost every type of dust: soil dust, construction dust, dust from mines and quarries, etc. The possible precise consequences of dust exposure in everyday life are hard to determine. Therefore, dust control is crucial for human health protection. Besides the impact on human health, dust decreases visibility in traffic and work sites, contaminates surrounding environment, contributes to the deterioration of roads by mitigating from the road surface, etc.

Village of Bethune uses calcium chloride to control the dust in the area during the summer season.

Here is the information to the product you need to know:

Calcium chloride (CaCl<sub>2</sub>) is a hygroscopic salt that draws moisture from the air to form a solution in road gravel that keeps road surfaces constantly damp, even in hot, dry conditions. The moisture helps to bind particles together to create a hard and compact road surface. Because it penetrates several inches into the road base, calcium chloride also contributes to overall road surface stability. It depresses the freezing point of the moisture in the road surface, to help minimize frost heave damage in the winter.

## MUNICIPAL & EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Municipal		Emergency Services	
Municipal Office	638-3188	Ambulance	911
Public Works	535-5223	RCMP-Emergency	911
	RCMP Office (Lumsden)	731-4270	
	Fire Department	911	

Village of Bethune Members of Council for 2020 are:

Mayor - Derrick Shaw, Councilors - Ashton Riche, Christopher Lloyd, Doug Patience and Brant McEachern.