



13211 Henry Ave, Box 159
Summerland, BC V0H 1Z0
Phone 250-494-6451
www.summerland.ca

Media Release

For Immediate Release

DATE: December 1, 2023

Summerland Utility Budgets Open House (Virtual)

SUMMERLAND – There will be a virtual Utility Budgets Open House on Wednesday, December 6 starting at 5:00 p.m. It will be approximately 1 hour in duration with a question and answer period at the end. There is no need to pre-register.

Click on this link to participate in the virtual open house:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87120828798?pwd=eGZXSUY0b2lhY3Y4eXdNWTBHZUFmZz09>.

Should you be prompted the meeting ID is: 871 2082 8798. Additionally, the passcode is: 998235.

On November 20, 2023, Summerland Council passed a resolution to establish 2024 utility rate increases. A typical single-family home would see annual utility increases of \$113.40 broken down as follows:

Electric – 3.00%	Increase from \$142.62 to \$146.90 per month (\$51.36/year)
Sewer – 0.00%	No Increase – remains at \$36.72 per month (\$0.00/year)
Water – 6.78%	Increase from \$76.26 to \$81.43 per month (\$62.04/year)
Total monthly increase =	\$9.45 (\$113.40/year)

Sewer rates are held at 0% by maintaining the parcel tax that was dedicated for the financing of the sewer treatment plant. As this debt is retired in 2023, Council determined that a modernized billing model for sewer use and rates should be explored instead of adjustments being arbitrarily imposed in the 2024 year. A short-term extension of the parcel tax is being considered to afford the time to provide options and advice for Council's deliberation.

Quote

“Council is required each year to adopt balanced budgets and with these rate increases our three Utilities remain in good shape and we can continue to provide these essential services into the future. With the billing changes we implemented last year, we have been able to absorb much of the 6.74% FortisBC electric increase. In the water utility, the driving factor for the rate increases continues to be the escalating cost of water treatment.”

- Mayor Doug Holmes, District of Summerland

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Contact:

Graham Statt

Chief Administrative Officer

250-404-4043

gstatt@summerland.ca