



COUNCIL NEWS

With the holidays over and a new year begun, Council is busy working through the budgeting process. This year we are trying a new approach for the budget process and have included a public meeting with a line by line review of the budget highlighting all changes from the previous year and rationale for the required increase or decrease. This meeting was held on January 23, 2023 during the Regular Meeting of Council. CFO Bhalla guided Council and the public through a detailed presentation providing opportunities for comments and questions after each section.

The budget is available on the Village website for perusal, keep in mind this is a draft budget which will likely have revisions. All questions are to be directed to CFO Bhalla directly in writing or by email: cfo@ashcroftbc.ca

Working groups are beginning to meet and the new Councillors are becoming familiar with the process and the tasks at hand. Working Groups provide an opportunity for Council to be more involved from a planning perspective for some of the village’s projects.

Strategic Planning will commence towards the end of February . This is an exciting time for Council as they will have an opportunity to begin planning for the next four years and prioritize projects that build community resilience and sustainability.

Upcoming events Council will be participating in:

Newly Elected Seminar in Kelowna, this seminar will provide a refresher for incumbent Council and for those new to Council a broad spectrum of procedure, legislation, do’s and don’ts, conduct, best practices and much more in regard to Council responsibilities.

SILGA hosted in Vernon. Each community is a member of a regional association, Ashcroft belongs to the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA). The annual conference provides peer networking and various key note speakers and sessions touching on current topics such as health, housing, protective service, sustainability etc. The SILGA convention is scheduled for mid April.

Village of Ashcroft
Mayor and Council:
Mayor:
 Barbara Roden
Councillors:
 Jonah Anstett
 Jessica Clement
 Nadine Davenport
 Doreen Lambert

PROPOSED BUDGET IMPACTS

Recognizing that we are in a inflationary environment and that everyone’s budgets are being impacted with the rising costs of EVERYTHING the Village is working hard to maintain a balanced budget with minimal increases. The 2023 budget will require a 2.5% overall budget increase; however, this is not a 2.5% increase above the BC Assessment increases.

Water and Sewer fees will remain the same as last year; however, solid waste (garbage) will see an increase of 28%. For residential rates that is an increase of \$33.00. The increase is due to increased tipping fees at the TNRD Transfer Station and ongoing rising costs of fuel and equipment maintenance.

The Village strives to keep costs as affordable as possible, however we have no control over other levels of governments

FIRE HALL RENOVATION BEGINS

At last, the renovation is underway at the Fire Hall! This project has taken months to move forward due to budget concerns, plans, contractor and building permit delays.

The Fire Department members are excited to have the building brought to WorkSafe standards by adding vehicle exhaust fans, building two additions: one for a hose drying and turn out gear room the other for improved washrooms. Complete with showers and a laundry facility so contaminated clothes can be washed at the fire hall and not at home. Also included in the reno are electrical upgrades as well as other internal improvements. The project is expected to complete sometime in September. For now, there is security fencing securing the trenches that were dug to pour footings.

Stay tuned, updates will be provided as the project progresses.

Utility Bills will be mailed out in the next two weeks. Remember there is a 10% discount if utilities are paid and received at the Village office by March 31!



GUNS AND HOSES TOURNAMENT

It was a packed house on January 21st at the Drylands Arena for the 3rd annual Guns and Hoses Fundraiser Hockey Game. Attendees came out to watch the Ashcroft Firefighters take on the RCMP in a hilarious duel of on-ice skills and hijinks. The event raised over \$8,000 for Ashcroft Honour Ranch, a non-profit organization that offers a “home away from home” for members of our Canadian Armed Forces, Veterans, Emergency Services Personnel, and their families, free of charge, while they are receiving medical care and treatment for PTSD. A special thank you to the organizers, volunteers and funders that made the event such a success.



2022 Events & Meetings

Council Meetings:

February 13 — 6:00 pm

February 27 — 6:00 pm

March 13—6:00 pm

March 27—4:30 pm Community Forum 2023 Public Budget Presentation.

March 27—6:00 pm

THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT MOURNS LOSS OF TEAM MEMBER

MOBILE RESPONSE TEAM AT HUB

*In Memory of
Ron Oliver*

It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the passing of our colleague and friend, Ron Oliver. Ron passed away unexpectedly on December 24, 2022.

Ron was a member of the Ashcroft Team for over 15 years, he will be missed more than words can express. Our deepest condolences go out to his wife Deb and their family.

Mayor, Council and Staff at the Village of Ashcroft

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Sadly 2023 is off to a tragic start, not only have we lost a team member but our community is grieving the loss of two Ashcroft residents. Council and staff wish to extend our deepest condolences to family, friends, colleagues and students.

Feeling overwhelmed by recent events? If you are struggling and need support we encourage you to reach out to the HUB or E-Fry Society, they are coordinating ongoing community support services.

There is always someone willing to listen, please reach out to each other during these difficult times. Check on your friends and neighbours, be a shoulder to cry on, encourage and above all else, love.

