

# TOWN OF MILESTONE – 2023

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## 2023 BUDGET AND TAX POLICY INFORMATION

2023 Operating and Capital Budget was considered and passed by the Council of the Town of Milestone on April 11, 2023.

The following Tax Policy information was passed and applied to the Total Taxable Assessment for the Town of \$48,218,160, which is up slightly from \$47,569,930 in 2022:

2023 Municipal Mill rate – 5.00 mills

Base Tax – \$215.00 – Ag., Res, Comm

Base Tax - \$915.00 Land & Improvements – Ag., Res., Comm

*There is no change to the Mill rate or Base tax in 2023.*

Municipal Operating Revenues, excluding any capital grant allocations that may be received, total \$1,163,060;  
Operating expenses, excluding depreciation of asset calculations and capital purchases, total \$1,161,912.

Municipalities essentially have two sources of revenue; Government Transfers (Revenue Sharing) and own-source revenues (our tax base and Utility revenues). The most significant changes to the budget for 2023 are the changes to the Utility rates. These rates were approved in consideration of the rising costs of “everything” (SaskPower & SasKEnergy, Chemical costs and an aging infrastructure). A more detailed explanation of the increases will be included with the applicable billing.

*The Town does not have an issue with “normal” water usage which includes responsible watering of lawns and garden. The issues include: households watering in the heat of the day, during high winds and for extended periods (watering your lawn for hours on end would be considered excessive). If you have automatic sprinklers that run until the water runs down the street or makes a mudhole in your back alley, please adjust your timers. We need to maintain certain levels to ensure firefighting capacity and therefore may need to reduce the pressure to reduce consumption. It is a safety issue!*

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## Milestone Landfill – Information

### LANDFILL HOURS: (WEATHER PERMITTING AND EXCLUDING STATUTORY HOLIDAYS)

WEDNESDAYS: 9:00 am TO 12:00 NOON

SATURDAYS: 8:00 am TO 10:00 am

As most residents will now be aware, at the May 2022 regular council meeting, the decision was made to implement a “fee for Service” structure at the Town of Milestone Landfill. This decision was made in direct response to increasingly strict requirements for compliance and the possible future closing of the Milestone Landfill. The Town incurred over \$50,000 in 2021 for Environmental Assessments and a closure plan (as required by the Ministry of Environment), with additional expenses in 2022 AND 2023 of Approximately \$12,000 for additional monitoring. Estimates to close the Landfill are extremely expensive and there will come a time when the Town will be forced to close the landfill as directed by the Ministry of the Environment. Council is currently looking at the immediate future of the landfill and what it will look like going forward.

The Town of Milestone has a 14’ dump trailer parked by the fire hall and is to be used for grass clippings and compostable materials only, with it being suggested that the materials be bagged. Our 3-ton truck has surpassed its useful life and council is determining if there is an economical replacement or if we have to discontinue that service. For the interim, piling the trees beside the compost trailer is not a suitable option. All residents have access to dump trees at no costs during regular landfill hours.

***Improper use of the Compost Trailer (i.e., dumping garbage) could lead to the discontinuation of this service.***

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Drainage Issues – it is no secret there are drainage issues in the Town of Milestone. This fact is not lost on council, administration or public works employees. Please know that this issue has been discussed regularly along with significant costs incurred as far as engineering, construction and most recently surveying. The most recent survey was completed with concerns for the cemetery being the number one priority. The results of this survey are available at the Town Office but suffice to say that Milestone is quite simply FLAT. Standards for water drainage require a 2% grade and most of the existing grade in the Town of Milestone is below that figure. We have a CP Rail culvert and a SaskEnergy line coming into town that both pose hurdles. We also have private land to the north of Town. We cannot simply make changes without assistance/approval/cooperation from these third parties. Insinuation that council, administration or public works employees simply do not care is not true. It should also be noted that while we have at times an issue with standing water, we are not aware of any flooding of private property due to Town negligence or the drainage ditches. There is a considerable difference between a ditch and gutters that remains full, and a house that routinely floods.

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## COMMUNITY BYLAW ENFORCEMENT

The Town of Milestone receives complaints on several issues. The Town generally will attempt to address such concerns via correspondence from the municipal office. In a vast majority of the cases, these issues are dealt with internally, while in some instances, the Council may be required to consider referring the matter to an outside agency to enforce bylaw regulations. These considerations are usually costly to utilize and, in turn, cost every ratepayer accordingly, as the municipal taxes bear excess service costs. The council is currently discussing with a 3rd party bylaw enforcement agency for law enforcement purposes. Some of the areas to be addressed are as follows.

**Pets Running at Large** – The Council respectfully requests your co-operation to be a responsible pet owner and ensure your dog is properly restrained while outside. Your dog or cat should not be allowed access to streets, lanes, or neighboring properties while being restrained to your property. Your dog shall also be properly restrained with a leash while walking. A fine for not properly restraining dogs to property and for dogs running at large is \$50.00 for the first infraction and \$100.00 for any subsequent infraction. The designated officer or any person may take any dog or cat found running at large contrary to the provisions of this bylaw to the municipal pound, at this moment designated as the Regina Humane Society Inc. located in Regina, where it shall be kept, released or disposed of by their impoundment regulations.

**Barking Dogs** – Dogs continuously barking create an unnecessary hardship on shift workers, seniors, and infants and become annoying to neighbors. Any person residing in the municipality who owns, harbors, or has a dog or cat which creates a disturbance to the annoyance or discomfort of other persons within limits of the town of Milestone or to the public at large is guilty of an infraction of this bylaw and shall be subject to a penalty of \$50.00 for the first infraction and \$100.00 for any subsequent infraction.

**Unightly and Untidy Premises** - Concerns sometimes are received regarding the overgrowth of grass and weeds, unsightly materials being stored on the property, derelict vehicles, and others. Council will request the issues as identified be addressed. If the property remains untidy, the Council may, however reluctantly, proceed under The Municipalities Act, 2005 and local bylaws to have the work performed. If the municipality is required to proceed with such action, costs associated with it will be added to and form part of the taxes on the property.

**PARKING:** Per the town's TRAFFIC CONTROL BYLAW, the council is requesting your cooperation in ensuring that your vehicle(s) (**THIS INCLUDES RVs, Camper Trailers, Utility Trailers, etc.**) are not parked on the street for more than 24 hours. The extended parking violates the Bylaw and creates undue and unnecessary hardship for street cleaning, street maintenance, and snow removal operations. It can also hamper sight lines and create a hazard when children travel to and from school. Also, if you are parking your trailer for **extended** periods on your property or the boulevard, please be aware of your neighbor. It may be restricting their view or causing them an inconvenience you may not be aware of. Your consideration will be appreciated by all concerned.

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### YEARLY COMPLIANCE REPORT FOR DRINKING WATER

Saskatchewan Environment "Drinking Water Quality and Compliance Regulations" requires that at least once a year, The Town of Milestone 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 the "Permit to Operate Waterworks." This is to notify, under these regulations, that a summary of the Town of Milestone's water quality and sample submission compliance record for the January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 time period is now available at the town office. This information can also be seen online at [www.saskwater.com](http://www.saskwater.com).

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**BACK LANES:** Just a reminder that the Town does not maintain back lanes, so please avoid back lanes after a rainfall as the lanes get rutted up and in some instances, adjacent private property has been damaged. In most cases, it is contractors from out of town that seem to find their way in the back lanes. If you see this happening please let us know so we can invoice them for the repairs.

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### PAYMENT OPTIONS

Tax and utility payments can now be made online through most financial institutions and the pre-authorized payment program. Please contact the Town Office if you are interested in setting up pre-authorized payments or if you have any questions about online payments.

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### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor: Jeff Brown

Councillors: Mike Gallais, Shannon Garratt, Rena Ohrt, Mike Sjodin, Greg Treleaven & Jamey Wolfe