

VILLAGE OF RADIUM HOT SPRINGS

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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Available at: <https://radiumhotsprings.ca/village-office/documents-centre/>

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1. 2020 Services and Operations Report

The arrival of Covid 19 was a large challenge for staff, including meeting Provincial Health Orders and WorkSafe BC requirements regarding the pandemic. Village Council and staff worked very hard to minimize service reductions and interruptions, and continue to do so into 2021.

Our drinking water and waste water treatment and distribution systems operated within normal parameters throughout the year. The Village installed a third water treatment unit, which will enhance our capacity to deal with future turbidity problems, while facilitating maintenance operations. The Village is seeking to improve our water intake system, which will include an additional settling pond. We are waiting for word regarding the grant application for this proposal.

Fire Department members responded to 60 calls for service. This included 19 First Responder calls for medical aid, and 12 motor vehicle accidents.

The Village continued our animal safety program in partnership with WildSafe BC and the Regional District of East Kootenay. Our coordinator, Corinna Strauss, monitored issues involving animal attractants, and aggressive animals. Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 protocols, our ability to provide public education was limited. 2020 was a very successful year, with very limited wildlife conflict reported.

2. 2020 Progress Report

The following summarizes progress made achieving our objectives:

1. The Village continued its phased approach to the implementation of the Master Park Plan, with completion of the warming hut and surrounding landscaping.
2. The Village undertook a successful competition for selection of an artistic feature for the roundabout centerpiece. Installation occurred in the spring of 2021.
3. The Village installed a third water treatment filtration unit. This unit increases our capacity to treat water, and improves our ability to withstand turbidity events. It will help us undertake maintenance, as we essentially have a back-up treatment unit now. We applied for funding for improvements to our water intake system, which will include an additional settling pond. These initiatives are part of our plan to improve redundancy in the drinking water system.
4. With respect to the Covid 19 pandemic, the Village was flexible in the determination of its policies. This was largely dictated by the dynamic nature of the situation. Council and staff made the continued provision of services a priority and we feel that we were successful in maintaining a high level of services, despite the additional challenges imposed.

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3. 2021 Objectives:

1. Proceed with the installation of a spray park, to be located adjacent to our warming hut and ice rink.
2. Proceed with enhancements to our drinking water intake and settling pond system, to improve both resiliency and our ability to handle seasonal and turbidity related events.
3. Initiate the design and purchasing process for replacement of the 2002 Fire Pumper apparatus.

4. 2022 Objectives:

1. Proceed with the central park streetscape revitalization project. This project will involve parking, curb, gutter and drainage enhancements, accessible walkways, as well as the implementation of traffic calming features.
2. Undertake the municipal election process.
3. Undertake succession planning for the management team (Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Financial Officer and the Public Works Superintendent).

5. Tax Exemptions

The Community Charter allows Council to exempt certain classes of property from municipal taxation. Examples include lands held by charitable, philanthropic and not for profit corporations.

For taxes imposed in 2020, the Village provided an exemption for the lands owned by the Roman Catholic Church. This exemption was provided under Bylaw No. 453, 2019.

The additional amount of municipal taxes that would have been imposed in 2020 on these properties, if not for the exemption, would have been \$ 6,570.

For 2021, a similar exemption is being provided under Bylaw No. 461, 2020. The additional amount of municipal taxes that would be imposed on these properties in 2021, if not for the exemption, would be \$9,220.

6. Declarations of Disqualification

The Community Charter details conditions under which a municipal Councillor may be disqualified from holding office. No Councillor was disqualified in 2020 nor were any applications for disqualification made.

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7. Small Community Grant Funding

In 2020 the Village of Radium Hot Springs received \$87,804 in funding.

8. Development Cost Charges

\$22,732 was received in water development cost charges in 2020 leaving a year-end balance of \$0 in the fund with \$603,990 expenditures, waivers or reductions made in the year. The beginning balance was \$571,784 with the fund earning \$9,474 in interest.

\$12,268 was received in sewer development cost charges in 2020 leaving a year-end balance of \$21,673 with \$0 expenditures, debt payments, waivers or reductions made in the year. The beginning balance was \$9,076 with the fund earning \$329 in interest.