

SEPTEMBER 2024

Bulletin

#overstrand4all

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

#C4ourself

REVISED ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

In February 2024, Council approved a new organisational structure. This change allowed Overstrand Municipality to review and redesign its organogram in line with legislative requirements to not only meet service delivery needs but to help improve on delivery and the continuity of functions.

As is evident from Overstrand Municipality's approved macro structure, municipal functions will in future resort under seven (not six) directorates. This major change came about due to the disbandment of the former directorate economic and social development and the introduction of the Directorate Infrastructure Services and the Directorate Planning and Development. At the time of the approval of the new macro structure, Executive Mayor, Dr Annelie Rabie, pointed out that the resultant organogram is a living document that will evolve and be refined as and when operational needs change.

Here is a brief overview of significant functional reassignments (if any) per directorate:

❖ CORPORATE SERVICES

- No major changes except for the relocation of some functions to the Office of the Municipal Manager.

❖ FINANCIAL SERVICES

- No major changes, except that fleet management will in future resort under this directorate.

❖ INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

- Significant changes involve the transfer of operational services (i.e. water, storm-water and roads) from the Directorate Community Services to this newly introduced directorate.

❖ PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

- For the most part, all functions that previously resorted under "economic and social development" will now resort under this directorate. The exception is that the portfolio "tourism" will in future resort under the Office of the Municipal Manager.

❖ MUNICIPAL PUBLIC SAFETY


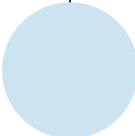

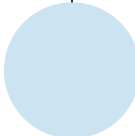



- Previously referred to as "protection services", the functions of this directorate remain unchanged.

❖ COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Other than reassigning operational services to the Directorate Infrastructure Services, no major changes have been affected.

❖ OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

- By entrusting some functions that previously resorted under the Directorate Corporate Services and the Directorate Community Services to this office, it is anticipated that Overstrand Municipality will be in a better position to fulfil its obligations in as far as governance and oversight are concerned.

CORPORATE SERVICES	FINANCIAL SERVICES	INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES	PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	MUNICIPAL PUBLIC SAFETY	COMMUNITY SERVICES	OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL MANAGER
Director: Desirée Arrison	CFO: VACANT	CHIEF ENGINEER: STEPHEN MÜLLER	DIRECTOR: VACANT	DIRECTOR: NEVILLE MICHAELS	DIRECTOR: SEON SWARTZ	MUNICIPAL MANAGER: DR DEAN O'NEILL
						
Risk Management Human Resources ICT Business Architecture & Customer Relationships Administrative Support Services Municipal Court	Financial Accounting Revenue Management Expenditure Fleet & Asset Management Supply Chain Management	Civil Engineering Planning Civil Engineering Services Electrical Operations & Maintenance Project Management Unit	Town & Spatial Planning Environmental Management Building Control Socio-economic Services Property Management	Traffic Services Law Enforcement Fire & Rescue and Disaster Management Safety, Security & CCTV	Parks, Recreation, Cemeteries & Refuse Removal Integrated Human Settlements & Development Facilities, Halls & Building Maintenance	Strategic Support Services Legal Services & Contract Management Internal Audit Electoral Unit

... Chelsea Flowers in Stanford



"The announcement that *TIME Magazine* has selected the Hannarie Wenhold Botanical Art Gallery that houses the Grootbos Florilegium as one of the World's Greatest Places for 2024 could not have come at a better time," the patron of **CHELSEA FLOWERS IN STANFORD**, Overstrand Executive Mayor, Dr Annelie Rabie, said.

"Not only does recognition of this nature underscore the huge contribution the Grootbos Foundation has made towards conserving

our unique floral heritage, but it will definitely serve to spark renewed interest in this exhibition that is an exact replicate of the winning design that earned a gold medal for South Africa at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in London earlier this year and was also crowned as 'Best exhibit in the Pavilion' and 'Best New Design', the Mayor added.

CHELSEA FLOWERS IN STANFORD will be open to the public at 32 Queen Victoria Street from **21 September to 6 October 2024**.

In addition to some very rare species, the Grootbos Florilegium (a private collection of fynbos botanical artworks) will also be on show.

❖ Tickets can be bought via Webtickets at R175 p.p. or at R200 p.p. at the door.

Getting to Grips with

MUNICIPAL OBLIGATIONS & MANDATES

ELECTRICITY

In terms of the Constitution, electricity is a local government competence and municipalities are licensed to sell electricity to customers in their designated areas of supply. Locally, Overstrand Municipality is responsible for electricity distribution and reticulation in the Greater Hermanus, Hawston, Greater Gansbaai, Kleinmond and Stanford areas. All other areas are supplied by Eskom.

Given that a sustainable supply of sufficient electricity and energy is vital for growth and development in the Overstrand, as local authority, we are committed to delivering quality services to residents in the designated areas, including expanding those services to people who have, up to this point, not had access.

To this end, we are doing our utmost to ensure that **everyone**, irrespective of financial means, has access to a safe and reliable electricity supply that meets acceptable national standards.

As much as Overstrand relies on Eskom's national grid for its electricity supply, it is the municipality's responsibility -

- To plan, design and operate our distribution network;
- To ensure proper metering and recording of our customers' consumption; and
- To promote alternative energy sources as a means to ensure future sustainability.



FAIR COST OF RENDERING SERVICES

The National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) concurred that if local authorities who are licensed to sell electricity to consumers are to remain viable, they must be given the opportunity to recover the fair cost of rendering such a service, plus a reasonable margin.

The condition, though, is that all such licensees must conduct a comprehensive cost-of-supply study as prescribed by NERSA.

Having duly conducted said study, Overstrand recently implemented the first phase of the municipality's new cost-reflective electricity tariffs. The new tariffs came into effect on 1 July 2024 and apply to all consumers within Overstrand Municipality's electricity supply area.



ADJUSTED ELECTRICITY RATES

As from 1 July 2024, electricity bills consist of three items as per NERSA's prescriptions: a basic monthly charge, a capacity charge and an energy charge (kWh).

Note that for the time being, the monthly consumption charge is still calculated as per the inclining block tariffs referred to in the "Electrical Services: How to Guide", available on the municipal website.

The basic monthly charge is to cover the costs of keeping you connected to the network, irrespective of how much electricity you use. The basic charge goes towards maintaining your service connection, paying back the capital invested and to cover salaries and wages, as well as any other costs not directly related to the amount of electricity used. All even in the Overstrand electricity distribution area pay a basic monthly charge for electricity so that costs are distributed fairly between all consumers.

The capacity charge refers to the **capacity** reserved for your property by the municipality and is generally referred to as the **connection size** which can now be either 30, 40, 50 or 60 amperes.

The lower the amperes, the fewer the appliances that can be switched on simultaneously – implying better control over household consumption and thus your electricity bill.



METERING

The Municipality has standardised on the installation of pre-payment meters for all domestic consumers. As such it is compulsory for all new domestic connections to be equipped with a pre-payment meter.

Nevertheless, the following installation types are currently operated by Overstrand:

- **Credit meter systems** – Consumers receive a continuous electricity supply and are billed monthly based on the amount they have used or are estimated to have used.
- **Prepaid meter systems** – Consumers are required to purchase electricity upfront, similar to pay-as-you-go cell phones.



CONNECTION SIZES

All prepaid residential customers within the Overstrand Municipality's electricity distribution area who currently have a connection size greater than 30 ampere will now be afforded the opportunity to change their connection size to 30, 40, 50 or 60 ampere. These customers will be allowed to change their connection size once, free of charge, within the 2024/25 financial year.

The connection size does not limit the number of units that can be used but does impact the number of appliances that can be switched on simultaneously.

Connection size has a direct bearing on the **capacity charge** that will be levied in future in keeping with the municipality's newly introduced cost-reflective electricity tariffs that came into effect on 1 July 2024. **Consumers who make use of credit meters** can also make use of this opportunity to change their connection size, provided they are prepared to switch to prepaid metering.

Do note that opportunities to change your connection size will continue beyond the current financial year, subject to certain terms and conditions.

Also note that changes to connection size do not apply to undeveloped erven, nor does it apply to low-income housing connections, indigent customers or small-scale embedded generation connections. Deciding on the appropriate connection size for a household or business can be a daunting task. To assist consumers in making the correct decision, please refer to the "Electrical Services: How to Guide" available on the municipal website: overstrand.gov.za > documents > electricity.

ACCOUNT PAYMENTS

Double-check public recipient

It has come to our attention that some ratepayers mistakenly selected "Overberg District Municipality" instead of **Overstrand Municipality** from the list of public recipients when they set up their list of registered beneficiaries.

These are two separate entities and if you pay the wrong one, your municipal account will fall into arrears.

We operate four bank accounts:

- one for utilities (i.e. rates and taxes),
- one for general payments (e.g. licence renewals),
- one for traffic fines, ■ one for the Onrus Caravan Park.

We urge everyone who uses EFT payments to settle their accounts to delete the old recipient(s) in their banking app.

Your cooperation in making doubly sure that you (a) selected the correct public recipient (**Overstrand Municipality**) and (b) the **correct account number** will be most appreciated. Also, please be sure to enter the correct amount and reference number when making EFT payments.

Note that the requisite banking details (i.e. account number and reference number) are reflected on all statements, invoices, fines and notices issued by Overstrand Municipality. These details are also available on our official website. Should you have any queries regarding our banking details, please call 028 313 8000 or send an e-mail to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za.

Road repairs

As much as we welcome the winter rains, it does hamper Overstrand Municipality's ability to repair damaged road surfaces properly.

In particular, the continuous heavy rains over the past couple of weeks have exacerbated the prevalence of potholes. Given that these potholes must be dry before they can be permanently fixed, we have no option but to fill them with gravel as a temporary measure until the weather improves.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused and urge all motorists to exercise extreme caution when driving in severe weather conditions.

After-hour rate for tanker services revised

In future, the after-hour rate will only apply when a customer requests a service after 15:00 on weekdays, or at any time outside of regular hours, and specifically demands that the service be provided on the same day, such as in an emergency.

Requests for services can be made at any time via the Collab Citizen App that now distinguishes between two types of tanker services:

- **Normal** (turnaround time of three workdays)
- **Emergency** (turnaround time of 24 hours)

Alternatively, send an email to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za or call 028 313 8111 in case of an emergency.

