

SEPTEMBER 2023

Bulletin

#overstrand4all

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

#C4ourself

MUNICIPAL BILL HIGHER THAN USUAL? THIS COULD BE WHY.

THE NEW MUNICIPAL TARIFFS KICKED IN ON 1 JULY 2023.

Council adopted its budget for the 2023/2024 financial year on 31 May 2023. Accordingly, it was agreed that the basket of tariffs, excluding electricity, will on average be increased by between 6.5% and 7.5%, depending on water consumption.

- Note that even though NERSA proposed an increase of 18%, we are only allowed to levy an increase of 15.1% on electricity tariffs.
- Also note that for auditing purposes, all water consumption readings had to be closed off by 30 June 2023. Consequently, the number of days between readings reflected on your June municipal bill may vary considerably from the number of days reflected on your July account. This is a once-off, year-end occurrence.

Furthermore, **THE NEW VALUATION ROLL** has come into effect, and property rates will in future be calculated based on the values reflected in this roll.

INDIGENT HOUSEHOLDS HAD TO REREGISTER BY 31 MAY 2023

in order to qualify for the indigent subsidy and to continue receiving up to 10 kℓ water, 50 kWh electricity and 7 kℓ sewerage free of charge per month from 1 July 2023 onwards.

If you meet the criteria to qualify for the indigent subsidy and have not reregistered yet, please visit your nearest municipal office without delay to rectify the matter.

- Note that Overstrand has broadened the scope of indigent households that can qualify for an indigent grant.

These amendments mostly pertain to the manner in which eligibility based on income (i.e. a cut-off point of R8 321 per household per month) is calculated.

DON'T LET YOUR MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT FALL INTO ARREARS

Undeniably, times are tough and more and more households find it difficult to make ends meet given the current constrained economic climate.

Rather than finding yourself in a situation where municipal services have been discontinued because you did not settle your bill, contact the finance department at your nearest municipal office timeously to make arrangements for down payments over an extended period of time.

CANDID BUT CONSTRUCTIVE: THAT'S THE SPIRIT!



The First Thursday event held in Betty's Bay in August truly attests to the willingness of politicians, administrators and concerned citizens in the Overstrand to talk candidly about pressing issues and to unite in their efforts to seek viable solutions to resolve matters in a constructive manner.

Given the devastation caused by recent severe rainfall events, it is understandable that matters pertaining to the need to keep trenches and culverts clear of debris and to restore damaged roads as soon as possible topped the agenda.

Overstrand Executive Mayor, Dr Annelie Rabie, as well as Municipal Manager, Dean O'Neill, were there to listen attentively to residents' qualms and proposals and to point them in the direction of the attending director or departmental head that could offer the necessary advice or guidance on the spot.

To quote Mayor Rabie: "The ideal place to voice that nagging question or gripe or to propose the ultimate solution is the First Thursday meetings. Show up: We welcome all candid and constructive inputs."

OVERSTRAND WESTERN CAPE'S WASTE MANAGEMENT CHAMPIONS



Craig Mitchell (Manager: Solid Waste Planning) handing over the award to Municipal Manager Dean O'Neill in the company of Stephen Müller (Director: Infrastructure and Planning).

Instead of competing to be the "cleanest" and/or "greenest" town in the Western Cape, municipalities nowadays have to show that they are doing their utmost to maintain a healthy environment all round by proving that they have what it takes to plan and render waste management services in a sustainable manner.

Nineteen out of the twenty-four municipalities in the Western Cape made submissions to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) for evaluation.

It is thus no small feat that Overstrand came out tops, as announced at the 55th Western Cape Waste Management Officers' Forum held on the 18th of August in Bredasdorp. Stellenbosch came in second with Saldanha in third place.

"It is indeed an honour to be recognised for our efforts to manage, recycle and reduce waste in a sustainable manner, and we are immensely proud of our dedicated officials and committed stakeholders who continue to do their best to ensure that our communities can flourish in a clean, green and healthy environment. We owe you a great deal of thanks," Overstrand Executive Mayor, Dr Annelie Rabie, said.



Pictured here are Belinda Langenhoven (DEA&DP), David Wright (Saldanha), Craig Mitchell (Overstrand), Saliem Haider (DEA&DP), Clayton Hendricks (Stellenbosch) and Evodia Boonzaaier (DEA&DP).

ONRUS ABLUTIONS GET A FACELIFT

Given its unique character, Onrus Beach is favoured by both surfers and young families who want to spend a fun-filled day with their toddlers on the beach.

Year after year, this beach has met the stringent criteria to be afforded international Blue Flag status for the summer holidays, but the time has come to upgrade its aging ablutions to a standard where it can cater for the rather diverse needs of its "regulars".

The upgrading of the ablution facilities will be completed in two phases over a period of two years:

- **PHASE 1** involves refurbishing toilets, urinals and hand washbasins in time for the spring/summer holiday season.
- **PHASE 2** involves installing toilets for the disabled, a nappy-change area and showers.

Plans are also in the pipeline to replace the roof and to construct a new life-guard tower, but this will be dependent on the extent of the capital budget in upcoming financial years.



PENSIONER REBATE STATUS

If you have applied for a pensioner's rebate and that rebate does not reflect on your latest municipal account yet, please do not be concerned. All applications for a pensioner's rebate received up and until 30 September 2023 will be processed and, if approved, will be effective from July 2023.

If an application has been unsuccessful, the applicant will be informed of the outcome by no later than 31 October 2023.

DO TAKE NOTE:

- Anyone who still wishes to apply for a pensioner's rebate should do so before **30 September 2023**. Download the application form from our website www.overstrand.gov.za, or send an e-mail to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za to request assistance.
- Enquiries regarding the outcome of applications for a pensioner's rebate will only be attended to **after the closing date, i.e. from 1 October onwards**.

Thank you for your cooperation and rest assured that all applications will be processed as speedily as possible.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Draft By-law relating to the Keeping of Dogs and Cats

Residents have until 4 September 2023 to submit their comments on the above proposed by-law which can be perused at any municipal office or public library or downloaded via the documents tab on Overstrand Municipality's official website: www.overstrand.gov.za.

The current proposal is that owners should be allowed to keep a maximum of two dogs and three cats on any erf or premises, unless prior consent to the contrary has been granted by the municipality.

Furthermore, it is proposed that dog owners should in future be allowed to let their dogs off the leash in specifically demarcated spaces within the municipal area.

Comments on the draft by-law can be submitted via email for the attention of the Municipal Manager to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za.



NINE ADDITIONAL BACK-UP GENERATORS SOON UP AND RUNNING

Courtesy of the Western Cape Government's Emergency Municipal Load-shedding Relief Grant, Overstrand Municipality received R6.7 million to procure and install additional back-up generators at critical water and wastewater facilities to mitigate the impact load shedding has on the provision of these basic services.

Given the high demand, the lead time to procure generators has increased considerably. Nevertheless, six units were delivered by the end of July and the remaining three in the course of August.

Two of the first six have been installed at the Mossel River and Kleinmond Tennis Courts sewerage pump stations and the remainder at the Kleinmond, De Kelders and Pearly Beach water treatment plants, as well as at the Klipgat Spring in De Kelders.

The three generators delivered during August will be installed at the Gansbaai wastewater treatment plant, the Palmiet River raw water pump station in Kleinmond and the Kraaibosch Dam bulk raw water pump station in Gansbaai.

All generators will undergo various stages of testing before being fully commissioned.



180 kVA – Tennis Courts sewerage pump station, Kleinmond



200 kVA – Mossel River sewerage pump station, Hermanus



Plinth cast in preparation for next batch



Kraaibosch Dam raw water pump station



BABOON-PROOF BINS A MUST IN CERTAIN AREAS

Rooiels, Pringle Bay, Betty's Bay, Kleinmond (including Arabella), a portion of Hawston, a portion of Onrus, Eastcliff, Fernkloof (including the golf estate), Hermanus Heights, Voëlklip and Kwaiwater are all declared problem-animal areas.

Households in these areas must dispose of their domestic waste in baboon-proof bins.

Irrespective of whether use is made of a wheelie bin or an ordinary bin, all bins must be secured with a latch, strap, padlock or clip at all times.

Baboon-resistant 240-litre wheelie bins, with locks, can be purchased at municipal offices and will be delivered to your home. These bins cost R1 636 (VAT included).

Most hardware stores also stock wheelie bins, but must be fitted with a baboon-proof lock at an additional cost.

Apparently, ordinary rubbish bins can also be baboon-proofed for as little as R250. There are private service providers in Overstrand that can assist in this regard. Contact the Baboon Liaison Group in your town for information.

MOST IMPORTANTLY

- Waste in baboon-proof containers must be placed out on the sidewalk by **07:00 on the morning of the scheduled collection day only**. No containers should be left on the sidewalk overnight.
- No excess rubbish bags may be left next to or on top of containers or next to municipal bins. Any excess refuse must be taken to a transfer station, public drop-off or landfill site for disposal.
- Owners who let their properties over weekends or during holidays must bring all arrangements regarding the treatment of household waste to their tenants' attention.