

Utility Billing Late Payment Penalties During Pandemic

Regional District of Central Okanagan Board Meeting

April 27, 2020

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Recommend: Waiving Late Payment Penalty Calculation on Utility Bills

- Amend Eight (8) Bylaws to:
 - Waive late Payment Penalty Calculation on Utility Bills
 - 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Quarter
 - Resume penalty calculations in 2021
- Assists Electoral Area Residents experiencing Financial Hardship
- Estimated penalty revenue waived: \$30,000
- Urge those who can afford to pay their utility bills on time to still do so:
 - Cash flow reasons
 - Mitigate potential interim borrowing costs for operations

Other Possible External Financial Property Tax Deferral Relief:

- RD's do not collect taxes directly.
- Possible Provincial Relief:
 - Property Tax Deferral Programs – low interest loans:
 - Regular Program (1.95%):
 - 55 or older during the current year
 - A surviving spouse of any age
 - A person with disabilities
 - Families with Children Program (3.95%):
 - May qualify if a parent, stepparent or financially supporting a child.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/property-taxes/annual-property-tax/defer-taxes>

Bylaw Amendments: Additional Wording

“In consideration of the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020, outstanding balances not paid by the due date shall not be assessed the late payment penalty for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarters. The penalty charges will resume in 2021.”

Bylaws Affected:

- Solid Waste Management Regulation Bylaw No. 1253, as amended by Bylaw No. 1377 – Schedule C, Section 3.2
- Central Okanagan East Sewer Bylaw No. 1316, as amended by Bylaws 1378 & 1441 – Schedule A, Section 1.(3)
- Water Bylaws – Section 5
 - Killiney – Bylaw No. 1371 as amended by Bylaw 1435
 - Falcon Ridge – Bylaw No. 1372 as amended by Bylaw 1436
 - Sunset Ranch – Bylaw No. 1373, as amended by Bylaw 1437
 - Dietrich/Trepanier – Bylaw No. 1374, as amended by Bylaw 1438
 - Westshore Estates – Bylaw No. 1375, as amended by Bylaw 1439
 - Upper Fintry/Shalal/Road/Valley of the Sun – Bylaw No. 1376, as amended by Bylaw 1440

Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Board receive for information, the April 20, 2020 Utility Billing Late Payment Penalties During Pandemic report from the Director of Financial Services.