

HMB Council Meeting Highlights – December 12, 2023

HMB Council met on Tuesday, December 12. The full agenda information package can be found at:

sylvansummervillages.ca/uploads/8/8/0/5/88056186/half_moon_bay_december_2023_agenda_package_2.pdf

The highlights from this meeting include:

- The 2024 annual operating budget was approved. The revenue required from Property Taxes stays the same as last year. This means that individual property taxes could remain the same as long as your property assessment value remains the same. Property assessment values and school taxes are items outside of Council's control and could affect the amount of property tax you pay.
- The regional wastewater system managed by the Sylvan Lake Regional Wastewater Commission (SLRWWC) received news that the Alberta Government will provide \$13 million grant funding to build the wastewater line from HMB to the Town of Sylvan Lake. The SLRWWC anticipates this line to be operational in late 2025. Their plan is to complete engineering and procurement work in 2024 and begin construction in 2025. Detailed information on this work should be available mid-2024.
- The SLRWWC news and the Sylvan Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan, signed by all eight municipalities in the Sylvan Lake watershed, now drives HMB to begin planning for their internal wastewater collection system. HMB completed engineering work for their system in 2020. However, construction costs will need to be updated.
- In 2024, HMB will need to create a project plan and educational material for residents to understand what everyone has to do to get ready for the system, the cost implications both from a one-time connection fee and ongoing annual operating cost perspective, and timing of when the HMB internal system will be operational.
- Council discussed the Temporary Storage of Boat Hoists and Piers policy. This policy covers where docks and hoists can be stored on HMB reserve land during the off-season. Council discussed whether or not the HMB policy should be more prescriptive in where individuals could store their equipment. Council felt that it was not necessary to make any changes to the current storage policy for two reasons; 1) the Alberta Government and HMB determine where docks and hoists can be placed in the water and 2) generally hoist and dock owners store their equipment adjacent to where it is put in the water with limited issues. Council asks that residents are considerate of all adjacent private property owner's lake access and views when placing any pier or hoist on HMB's waterfront reserve lands.
- Council approved a new Property Tax Penalty Relief Policy. This policy provides guidance to Administration, Council and residents on how to manage requests and what might be a permissible reason for requesting a tax penalty relief.