



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Stettler Offers Temporary Tax & Utility Payment Deferral

The short-term payment option aims to support residents financially impacted by COVID-19

April 8, 2020 – Stettler, Alta: In order to assist our residents that have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town of Stettler is offering residents the option to defer utility and tax payments until later in the taxation year.

Residents may defer Town utility payments for up to three (3) months for the billing period of April 1st, 2020 – June 30th, 2020. The billing period covers the consumption period of March, April and May. In addition, the penalty charge for February 2020 consumption, billed on March 2nd, has been waived. Monthly bills will continue to be distributed to residents and businesses; however, no penalty fees, service disconnections or utility fee transfers to taxes will be applied to any utility account until July 31st, 2020.

Consumption Period	Billing Period
March 2020	April 2020
April 2020	May 2020
May 2020	June 2020

The new due date for the payment of 2020 taxes is October 30th, 2020. Rather than charging the regular penalty of 3% to current taxes unpaid by the last working day of June 2020, followed by the 9% penalty applied to current taxes not paid by the last working day of July 2020, both penalties will be combined into one 12% penalty, to be charged on November 2nd, 2020 on any current taxes remaining unpaid.

Former Deadline for 2020 Tax Payments	Revised Deadline for 2020 Tax Payments
June 30, 2020	October 30, 2020

As a temporary payment option, taxpayers may defer tax payments, without penalty, to the last six months of the year (July – December) by signing up for the Pre-Authorized Withdrawal (PAW) Plan. The full year's taxes will be divided into six equal payments; billing for this plan would commence on the first working day of July and conclude in December. Please note that this option is only available for the 2020 taxation year. The regular twelve (12) month TIPP's program will remain available in 2021.

Any resident who wants to defer the payment of their utility bills and that are currently enrolled in the monthly direct debit plan must contact the Town Office to cancel the monthly payments, and later contact the Town Office to reinstate the direct debit plan.

The Town of Stettler would like to remind residents that this deferral assistance does not waive tax and utility payments; we encourage residents who are able to maintain their regular payments to do so. We aim to support our residents throughout these unprecedented circumstances and will continue to observe the COVID-19 outbreak closely.