

2021/22 DRAFT BUDGET AND REVISED IDP TABLED

Following a meeting of the Overstrand Municipal Advisory Forum (OMAF) held on 10 March 2021 to discuss the preliminary draft budget for 2021/22 and the fourth and final review of the current five-year Integrated Development Plan, both documents served before Council at the end of March.

On presenting the draft budget, Overstrand Executive Mayor, Dudley Coetzee, referred to the catastrophic effect Covid-19 and the lockdown has had on everybody. "The national lockdown introduced in March 2020 had a severe and immediate impact on the economy and all operations in the private and public sector, including municipalities' finances, and conditions are expected to remain volatile for the foreseeable future," he said.

It is further projected that inflation for 2021 will reach 4% and increase to 4.5% during the next financial year.

To exacerbate this gloomy picture, electricity remains a binding constraint on economic recovery, with power interruptions expected to continue into 2022.

In addition, the National Energy Regulator (NERSA) indicated that the cost of electricity Eskom provides to municipalities will increase by 15.6%. (This will be adjusted according to the final position regarding tariff increases, which will be published by NERSA.)

Given the recent announcements around renewable energy, the Mayor added that Overstrand is "currently talking to independent renewable-energy producers capable of generating electricity with a view to purchase electricity from them to reduce our dependence on Eskom".

Other than electricity tariffs, Coetzee pointed out that the National Treasury encouraged municipalities to maintain tariff increases at levels that reflect an appropriate balance between affordability for consumers, particularly poorer households, and ensuring the financial sustainability of the municipality.

"Against this background, the directive to the administration was to limit

increases in tariffs of those services that we can control to 4% in the 2021/22 draft budget."

The proposal, therefore, is that tariffs for refuse removal, sewerage services and water as well as most sundry services be increased by 4% to cover the costs of the service.

Furthermore, it is proposed to increase property rates across the board by 4%. The rebate on property rates offered to persons over the age of 60 will remain unchanged.

Salaries

The proposed increase in the salary budget is 4.5% and notch increases, which average 1.9%, have also been budgeted for.

On the subject of salary increases, the Mayor said Overstrand is "mindful of the fact that the Minister of Finance announced that public servants should only receive notch adjustments for the following three years" but cautioned that it ought to be noted that annual salary adjustments are still to be negotiated at National Bargaining Council level between the employer organisation (SALGA) and the respective unions. Meanwhile, all staff vacancies will remain frozen and may only be filled following a motivation to senior management.

Currently, the draft budget projects an accounting deficit of R113m. "Should we succeed in containing salary increases to notch adjustments only, we will reduce this deficit by R19.4m," the Mayor concluded.

Both the draft budget and revised IDP can be downloaded from Overstrand's official website www.overstrand.gov.za and will remain open for inspection at all public libraries and municipal offices until 30 April 2021.

It is envisaged that comments from the community and the municipality's responses thereto will serve before Council on 26 May 2021.

PRESERVING THE FUTURE BY PLANTING INDIGENOUS

As is custom, Arbour Month is celebrated the world over in the first week of September every year. Even though Overstrand Municipality fully supports this event, it holds that trees in this neck of the woods should rather be planted during the cooler months of autumn in time for the winter rainfall season. In so doing, newly planted trees will have a far better chance of establishing themselves before the drier summer months.

According to Overstrand Municipality's horticulturist, Lauren Rainbird, indigenous trees best suited to weather the harsh conditions along our coast include the following:



Overstrand Municipality's horticulturist, Lauren Rainbird, was also there to offer a word of advice.

- **Curtisia dentata (assegai)**
- **Cunonia capensis (red alder)**
- **Harpephyllum caffrum (sour plum)**
- **Kiggelaria africana (wild peach)**
- **Nuxia floribunda (forest elder)**
- **Olea europaea subsp. Africana (wild olive)**
- **Rhus lancea (sweet karee)**
- **Rhus pendulina (river karee)**
- **Sideroxylon inerme (milkwood)**
- **Syzygium guineense (water pear)**
- **Tarchonanthus littoralis (coastal camphor bush)**
- **Trichelia emetica (Natal mahogany)**



Ward 9 Councillor Grant Cohen, Dudley de Bruyn and Dencil Arendse (affectionately nicknamed the compost man) and EPWP workers Gerald Doty, Thandolwethu Marobobo, Lindikhaya Martin and Herman Philander all rolled up their sleeves to help plant trees at the Palmiet cemetery.

With this list in mind, and thanks to a generous donation by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, around fifty trees were planted in and around the recently established Palmiet Cemetery to help create a sense of tranquillity.

On behalf of Overstrand Municipality and the respective communities, Ward 9 Councillor Grant Cohen undertook to ensure that the trees will be taken care of because, as he put it: "With every tree we plant, we are expressing positive thoughts and hope – even if we are not here tomorrow, our trees will still be here."

BETTY'S BAY BABOONS



The baboon management programme for Betty's Bay has not been finalised yet. A trial period will be implemented as soon as discussions with the service provider has been finalised.

It is envisaged that during this three- to four-week period, different baboon management techniques ranging from the shepherding approach to the use of more assertive aversion techniques such as the use of paintball markers, bear bangers and the Virtual Fence, or a combination thereof, will be evaluated.

By following an adaptive management approach, Overstrand Municipality aims to develop a balanced implementation plan that will comply with its mandate, namely to ensure the sustainable management of baboon troops by keeping them out of the urban area.

"In order to find this balance, we need to engage with the community 'from both sides of the fence', but we also need to keep our eye on the 'reward' and that is the protection of our wildlife," Liezl de Villiers, Senior Environmental Manager, said.

Once the trial period has run its course, a baboon management programme will be presented to the Western Baboon Liaison Group.

Meanwhile, it is essential that all community members work together to keep baboons out of harm's way by not allowing certain attractants in and around their homes.

First and foremost, NEVER feed baboons. They will return to your property again and again!

Secondly, residents in baboon-affected areas should:

- Avoid planting fruit trees: If you do have fruit trees in your garden, be sure to harvest all visible fruit since this is a sure attractant for baboons.
- Remove invasive tree species such as New Zealand Christmas Trees and water berries from gardens: If these species do occur in your garden and you cannot remove them, be sure to prune them so that they do not flower and bear fruit.
- Enclose vegetable gardens and compost heaps or surround them with an electric fence.
- Refrain from feeding birds or other small wildlife.
- Install baboon-proof burglar bars where possible: If that is not possible, be sure to keep all windows and doors closed during the day.

And then there is the matter of refuse bins and baboons...

- Only baboon-proof refuse bins may be used in baboon-affected areas: Be warned, a refuse bag left lying on a sidewalk constitutes a criminal offence.

To ensure your refuse bin is really baboon-proof, here are a couple of handy tips:

- ☞ Secure your bin off the ground to a wall or knock a pole in the ground and attach your bin to the pole: Baboons have difficulty opening upright bins as their own weight keeps the lid shut.
- ☞ Secure your bin lid with a strap, rope or chain.
- ☞ Keep the bin locked on collection day.
- ☞ When not in use, store your bin in a lockable refuse room, garage or shed.

NEVER CONFRONT THE MARAUDERS

By all means, warn your neighbours when baboons are in the vicinity so that they can close their doors and windows, but do not confront the animals:

- When a baboon is in your garden or house, stand still and remain calm.
- Back away slowly and do not block its escape route.
- Do not try to snatch back anything from a baboon – it may become aggressive.
- Never threaten infant or juvenile baboons: Such behaviour will most likely cause adults, in particular the alpha male, to go into protective mode which could have dire consequences.



SERVICES AT GANSBAAI CLINIC RESUMED IN UPGRADED WING

Having completed phase 1 of the expansion and general upgrade of the Gansbaai Clinic, all primary healthcare services will be offered from this new wing until such time as phase 2 has been completed.

This new wing links to the existing facility and encompasses the addition of an emergency treatment unit (EC), ambulance bay, infectious diseases unit, and medical waste and refuse facilities.

The clinic can be entered at the corner of Main and Kapokblom Streets and can be contacted on 028 384 1917 to make an appointment.

SUPPLEMENTARY VALUATION ROLL OPEN FOR INSPECTION

The first supplementary valuation roll for the financial year 2020/21 will remain open for public inspection until 6 May 2021.

Residents can lodge an objection in respect of any matter reflected in or omitted from this roll, but are kindly reminded that such an objection should relate to a specific individual property only and not the supplementary valuation roll in general.

If you wish to lodge an objection, download the official form from the official municipal website www.overstrand.gov.za: Click on Documents > Strategic Documents > Property Valuations.

The form can also be obtained from your nearest municipal office:

- Hangklip-Kleinmond: 33 Main Road, Kleinmond
- Hermanus: 1 Magnolia Street, Hermanus
- Stanford: 15 Queen Victoria Street, Stanford
- Gansbaai: Main Road, Gansbaai

Completed forms should be forwarded to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za by no later than 6 May 2021. For enquiries, please contact Johette Basson on 028 313 8000.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

Overstrand Municipality urges all residents, business owners and visitors to remain vigilant at all times. Given that thieves, robbers and fraudsters are looking for easy targets, especially elderly members of our community should take extra care to stay safe.

In the interest of personal safety and to safeguard property and valuables, here are a couple of do's and don'ts everyone should keep in mind:

- Make sure garage doors are closed and all exterior doors are locked at night.
- Ensure your property is properly lit and install an alarm system if possible.
- Make sure that your car is locked.
- Close the windows and set the alarm before you leave home.
- While at home, cell phones, notebooks and laptops should never be left in plain sight near an open door or window.
- Store bicycles, surfboards and wetsuits safely indoors.
- To avoid falling victim to smash-and-grabbers, do not leave items such as wallets, cell phones and other valuables unattended or on the seat next to you while driving. Rather stow your valuables in the boot of your car.
- Notify your neighbours that you will be away so they can keep an eye out for any suspicious activity on the premises.
- Be aware of your surroundings in busy shops and shopping centres.

- Keep handbags closed and secure at all times. Do not hang articles on the back of a chair or a pram/stroller.
- Keep in mind that using a cell phone, whether making a call or texting, wearing a hood or listening to loud music all affects your awareness of your surroundings.
- Do not put your cell phone in your back pocket. The harder it is to get to, the harder it is to steal.
- Keep your valuables including your cell phone, camera and jewellery hidden. Remember: Out of sight, out of mind.

Be sure to keep the following numbers you can call in case of an emergency handy:

- ◆ OVERSTRAND LAW ENFORCEMENT: 028 313 8990 / 028 313 8111
- ◆ OVERSTRAND SAFETY AND SECURITY: 028 313 8996
- ◆ HERMANUS PUBLIC PROTECTION: 028 312 1674
- ◆ SAPS HERMANUS: 028 313 5300
- ◆ SAPS KLEINMOND: 028 271 8200
- ◆ SAPS GANSBAAI: 028 384 0201
- ◆ SAPS STANFORD: 028 341 0601

