

Newsletter - Autumn 2022

Our membership is stable and we currently have 121 dues-paying members.

Sewer, garbage and water taxes

In 2021, the amount of water taxes amounted to CHF 870,000 with an unspent amount of CHF 73,000. The bill for sewage taxes amounted to CHF 740,000 with a shortfall of CHF 41,000 and the bill for waste taxes amounted to CHF 894,000 with an unspent amount of CHF 222,000.

According to an order of the Cantonal Court in response to an appeal prior to 2017, "the fees charged for sewage and waste services do not comply with the principle of causality." On the other hand, "as regards the supply of drinking water, the polluter-payer principle is not applicable... The single tax charged for the drinking water service therefore respects the principle of equivalence". Following this decree, the Municipal Council will draw up a new regulation concerning sewerage and waste taxes. The Municipality wishes to present a draft that will be submitted to the primary assembly, in principle, in June 2023. The waste regulation has already been revised, it came into force in 2018 and it respects the principle of causality.

Then there is the question of the allocation between the variable share - it depends on the use, generally the length of stay - and the fixed share of the facilities. This separation is not currently applied in the Municipality of Chalais. It would be favorable to the R2 who spend, on average, only about 50 days in Vercorin, so that their variable share should only constitute about 15% of the share paid by the permanent residents.

- As far as waste is concerned, the problem is therefore solved with the taxes on garbage bags, while pointing out that with an unspent amount of CHF 222,000, about 25% of the revenue, the total amount is too high for both year-round residents and for the R2.
- As far as wastewater is concerned, it seems that the fixed part amounts to approximately 55% and the variable part to 45%. The President of the Municipality agrees to differentiate the tariffs between year-round residents and the R2, referring, for example, to the tourist tax based on a presence of R2 of 50 days per year.
- With regard to drinking water, the decree states that "the single tax charged for the drinking water service respects the principle of equivalence". In our understanding, this decree goes against the practice of the Municipality to weight the use of water by the surface of the land. This is an additional amount that can rise to a maximum of CHF 220 francs for 1000m², practically doubling the water tax for the household (237.35). This practice seems questionable to us and concerns both year-round residents and the R2.

Regional Mobility

For more than a year, the Prefect of the District of Sierre has been engaged in a dialogue with the municipalities and the various R2 associations of the region. The goal of these consultations is to find ways to increase public transport trips from 8% to 25% (of total movements) over the next ten years. The basic concept is the development of a hub, a central station, for example by reactivating Granges station, from which the resorts can be easily reached after getting off the train. It is also envisaged to encourage tourists and the R2 to use public transport more by means of a guest card which would give free access to regional public transport. A test will be carried out in Crans-Montana during the 2023 summer season. The goal would be to offer guest cards to tourists and the R2 from other resorts in the region, perhaps as early as the winter of 2023-24, at a cost of CHF 15 million per year.

Work at the Creux du Lavioz

The terrace of the refreshment bar will be redesigned and equipped with a series of games for children. The whole will form the garden of the buvette, which will be crossed by a small stream. A pumptrack will be installed on the large flat area to the east of the tennis court, which was reclaimed thanks to the removal of earth last year. These transformations will take place in 2023.

The current building of the Creux du Lavioz will be restructured to meet the needs of the site in terms of closed premises with the possible addition of an annex on the North side. The sanitary capacity of the building will be increased, the kitchen reorganized, the refreshment room reorganized and the former daycare center will be connected to the refreshment room and become a multipurpose room. This project will be refined in 2023.

Then, in the next 5 to 10 years, the creation of a downhill bike path served by a conveyor belt is envisaged; in winter, this path will be dedicated to skiing. There will also be a new ski lift to return to the gondola and two new ski slopes are planned for the Creux de Lavioz. Finally, various facilities will be installed in the forest and a discovery trail will be built on the edge of the forest to the southeast of the site.

Chemins du Mont

The registration in the land register of a footpath easement around the Bellalui building is well underway. We hope to have the path re-established by the spring of 2023. The President of the Municipality is also negotiating to re-establish the Northwest access to the Mont.

Public Lighting

The brightness of the streetlights is lowered from 10PM and the light will be turned off between 11PM and 5:30AM while leaving the main roads and the center of the village lit. According to the Municipal authorities, the mercury and iodine streetlights will be replaced by a "road optics LED" system, i.e. a LED system that only lights the road. This system will cost about CHF 1'000 per streetlight and the transition is underway. The Municipality invests annually CHF 100,000, an amount provided for in the 2023 budget.

Waste Disposal Center and Eco-Point

The part of the waste disposal center at the bottom of the village intended for bulky objects, household appliances, plastic objects, chemical products etc. has been shut down

permanently. Such bulky objects will have to be brought to the plain to the waste disposal centers of Sion or Sierre thanks to the recently received waste management access card.

On the other hand, the section for "green" waste (hedge trimmings, garden waste and grass) will be maintained (reopening in April 2023) and the eco-point at the exit of the village has been completed with a container for compostable kitchen waste. This eco-point will only be moved to a location to be defined at a later date.

Chalais-Brie Vercorin Cable Car

Several appeals have been filed against the new cable car route. The Cantonal Court has rejected the appeal. The opponents to the project have decided to appeal to the Federal Court.

**The statutory meeting of Verco R2 2023 will take place
Saturday, February 18th 2023 at 5PM in the multipurpose hall of Vercorin
in the presence of the President of the Municipality, Mrs Sylvie Masserey Anselin**

Vercorin, November 2022 Andreas Saurer - President of Verco R2

To join Verco R2, go to : www.verco R2.ch