

PRESS RELEASE

December 11, 2017

2018 Operating and Project Budget

The budget process is the single most important policy decision Council makes during our term. Careful budget planning and control means better services for our residents.

Town Council approved the 2018 Operating Budget in the amount of \$4,048,197 at our December 6, 2017 special Council meeting, the following are the highlights:

- 2% increase to municipal taxes keeping in line with inflation to maintain existing programs, services, and infrastructure.
- Major factors impacting the budget include: Minimum Wage Increases, Carbon Tax Levy, Increase in Pavement Debt Servicing, Increase in Water Debt Servicing, and Subdivision Tax Refund Program.
- Enhanced service level with implementation of a Fall Clean-up.

Town Council approved the 2018 Project Budget in the amount of \$1,095,189 at our December 6, 2017 special Council meeting, the following are the highlights:

- Council: Ste. Anne Mediation (Part 2).
- Administration: 3 Desktops, Asset Management (Part 1), Town Office Furnaces (2), Server/UPS Replacement, Carpet in Library, New Phone System, Cyber Security (Part 2), and Organizational Review.
- Protective Services: Vegetation/Fuel Management, Breathing Air Compressor Upgrade and, Emergency Response Centre Pavement Repair.
- Recreational Vehicle (RV) Sani Dump.
- Main Street Re-development Plan/Study.
- Sidewalk Replacements: 52 St (48 to 49 Ave) East, 53 St (48 to 50th Ave) East (Boulevard Redevelopment), and 53 St (48 to 50th Ave) West (Boulevard Redevelopment).
- Public Works: Christmas Street Lights, Backhoe, Packer, and Man Lift.
- Economic Development: Diamond Centre Mural, Agricultural Sector Study, Local Business Training Series, and Town Branding & Marketing.
- Communications: Wireless WIFI in Diamond Centre, Aquatic Centre, and Exhibition Centre and a Communication Study.
- Recreation: Walking Trail Expansion, Back-up Suction Pump for Aquatic Centre, Energy Audits for Exhibition Centre and Diamond Centre, Park Avenue Playground Fence, and Diamond Centre Insulation and Siding.

2018 Project Budget is funded by grants (\$921,283), Other Agencies (\$69,750), and Transfers from Reserve (\$104,156). The Town will also be completing \$1,905,717 in Projects carried forward from 2017 to 2018 the largest project being the Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project in the amount of \$1,195,430. 2017 Projects are funded by grants (\$881,229), Debenture Borrowing (\$823,926), Other Agencies (\$9,750) and Reserves (\$190,812).

Thank you to those who completed the 2018 Budget Survey, your input was greatly appreciated. The detailed Budget will be published on the Town's website www.mayerthorpe.ca in the New Year.

On behalf of Council,
Kate Patrick
Mayor

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