

ROSSLAND CITY HALL NEWS

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May 2008

On May 12th Council will be holding a Public Consultation Meeting at 7:00 pm at City Hall prior to adopting the revised 2008 Financial Plan. The following information provides citizens with an overview of the plan:

Budget Questions & Answers

Where do my taxes go?

When you pay your tax bill to the City, 56% of taxes collected go to other authorities. These include the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB), School District #20, the two Hospital Districts and other government bodies. The remaining 44% is allocated to the City of Rossland for operating expenses and infrastructure requirements ❖

What increased over last year?

The taxation strategy for the City of Rossland is to carefully identify what amount of revenue is required to provide professional municipal services and to properly maintain our infrastructure. This information is documented in the 5 year Financial Plan. As residential assessment rates rise, the City can adjust the millrate to maintain the required taxation revenue and avoid hitting the taxpayers with sudden increases. Last fall Council endorsed a 2% increase in tax revenue to cover the increase in operating expenses. As residential property tax assessments went up approximately 23% from 2007 – 2008, the municipal millrate dropped from 6.0073 to 5.0032 ❖

What does that mean for the average property?

In 2007, the average residential assessment was approximately \$175,000. The resulting property tax designated for the City of Rossland for the average home was \$1,051.28. In 2008, with a 23% increase in assessment, that average house is now worth approximately \$215,250. Accordingly, the property tax designated for the City of Rossland for the average home is \$1,077.05. Overall, the residential property tax has increased 2.45% on an average home in 2008 ❖

What is a parcel tax?

There are two parcel taxes in the City of Rossland, the Water Parcel Tax and the Sewer Parcel Tax. The parcel taxes do not vary according to the assessment value of the property. Parcel taxes can be used for only two things: capital projects and debt servicing. The 2008 Water Parcel Tax increased by \$45.34. This increase is to pay for the existing Water Treatment Plant debt, the replacement of the water treatment filter sand and the planning phases of both the cross connection program and the Murphy Creek intake replacement ❖

There was no Sewer Parcel Tax in 2007. This year it has been set to \$38.75 to pay for the sewer main replacement between Park St., Kootenay Ave. and View St. ❖

What other increases are on my tax bill?

The collections for other government agencies increased in dollar value. However, since regional assessments also increased, the millrates decreased accordingly. These increases include:

- **RDKB** increased 4.87% or \$72,418 overall. Some of the more noteworthy increases from regional services are:
 1. ▪ Solid Waste Management increased 9.6% (\$9,585)
 2. ▪ Regional Fire Services increased 21.43% (\$68,932)
 3. ▪ 911 Emergency Communications increased 13.45% (\$3,835)
 4. ▪ Regional Airport increased 11.5% (\$1,400)
 5. ▪ Transit increased 18.83% (\$20,504)
- 6. • **School District #20** increased 7.6% (\$120,354)
- 7. • **West Kootenay Boundary Hospital District** increased 4.23% (\$6,719)
- 8. • **Kootenay Boundary Hospital District** increased 11.74% (\$2,898)
- 9. • **Policing** cost requisition increased 17.78% (\$19,619)

What is the tax revenue from new development in 2008?

Tax revenue from new construction in 2008 is approximately \$200,000. The cost of servicing those new homes is approximately \$55,000. The remaining surplus of \$145,000 has been allocated to rebuild our reserve funds for future infrastructure improvement projects ❖

What happened to the \$330,000 deficit?

When the City hired a new auditor in 2005, Council was told that there was a deficit of \$330,000 accumulated from previous spending and accounting practices. Rossland is no longer in a deficit position. By reducing spending and deferring projects, the City has gone from a \$330,000 deficit in 2005 to a \$164,671 surplus at the end of 2007. Rossland is now on sound financial footing and is starting to save money for future and on-going infrastructure requirements ❖

Grants

Leveraging opportunities, building partnerships

Rossland City Staff and Council have been very successful in working with other government agencies and securing additional investments in our community. Below is a list of grant monies that have been announced for Rossland:

- **\$345,000** from the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund to upgrade the Murphy Creek intake. The project is estimated to cost \$518,000. The City portion approximately \$173,000. Planning will take place in 2008 and work should take place in 2009 (Application submitted – February 2007)
- **\$60,000** from Green Municipal Fund – Federation of Canadian Municipalities for implementing the “Visions to Action” Strategic Sustainability Plan (Application submitted – June 2007)
- **\$109,000** from the Community Works Fund – Gas Tax Funding for 2008 to be used for projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote cleaner air and cleaner water
- **\$433,500** from the Small Communities Protection Fund to offset costs to small communities
- **\$15,000** is available from 2006 Community Wildfire Protection Program for the Community Wildfire Protection plan being prepared this year.

Where's Rossland?

New and improved signage for the City of Rossland

The City of Rossland in partnership with the Ministry of Community Services is funding the creation of tourism oriented directional signage for our community. An effective signage program not only attracts visitors and provides direction and information, but it also plays a critical role in linking visitors experiences within Rossland.

The committee is now considering 3 prototypes which are available for viewing:

[contact Deanne@tourismrossland.com for these, as they cannot be reproduced from the file provided]

Please provide the Chamber of Commerce / Tourism Rossland with your feedback ASAP!

Email: Deanne@tourismrossland.com

Message from the mayor

Continuing our Visions-to-Action process...

Over the past few months there has been a tremendous level of community engagement and dialogue. My sincere thanks to all of you who have taken the time out of your busy schedules to attend the various public meetings to become better informed and to contribute your voice to building a better community.

Council is now considering the new Official Community Plan (OCP) and the draft document is available on the City's website. The new OCP is an innovative document that is built upon the year-long public consultation process of the Visions-to-Action project. The new OCP draft furthers the vision and strategic actions documented in the Strategic Sustainability Plan and articulates action-oriented policies for Council to use in decision making. Please mark May 20th on your calendar for a Town Hall Meeting at the Miner's Hall for a presentation on the new draft OCP ❖

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MAY 12, 7:00 PM – PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR 2008 FINANCIAL PLAN - CITY HALL

MAY 12, 7:30 PM – REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL - CITY HALL

MAY 13, 5:30 PM - SPECIAL COUNCIL & COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING - CITY HALL
MAY 20, 7:00 PM – TOWN HALL MEETING, DRAFT OCP PRESENTATION - MINER’S HALL
MAY 26, 5:00 PM – PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MEETING
MAY 26, 7:30 PM – REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL - CITY HALL
JUNE 3, 5:00 PM – SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL, FIRST READING OF DRAFT OCP - CITY HALL
JUNE 9, 7:30 PM – REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL - CITY HALL
JUNE 17, 7:00 PM – OCP PUBLIC HEARING – MINER’S HALL

ALL REGULAR, SPECIAL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF COUNCIL ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

NEW DRAFT OCP NOW ON-LINE

Our new draft OCP is available on-line. Please go to <http://www.rossland.ca> for more information or to download the document

For more information...

Please check our website for an up-to-date schedule of upcoming events, City notices and Rossland Recreation programming news: <http://www.rossland.ca>