

2015 Budget Process

I want to provide some background on the 2015 Budgeting process. What people need to know is that.....

According to the Municipal Government Act MGA, the municipality MUST approve an operating & capital budget by December 31st.

- A 'draft' budget or 'interim' budget is an estimate of revenues and expenses based on the current information available at that time.

Budgeting Process:

Council has provided direction to administration for the preparation of the 2015 budget. What is important to point out is that...

- Council affirmed its commitment to an open, transparent and citizen-centered approach by including public participation in the annual budget process.
- Options were explored for the campground area. Renovations to the washroom building for \$5500 are included
- Garbage & composting options were considered
- Fortis Franchise fees were reviewed
- 10 year MPE Capital infrastructure project plan was updated
- M/W After a full year of operations we are in a better position to prepare the budget for 2015
- Council held a budget meeting on November 26th to review the draft budget. This meeting was open to the public.

Tonight, I am recommending that this interim budget be approved as required by Municipal Affairs.

At the beginning of March council will review it again. Revisions can be made once more information is made available. This is the time that the tax rate for 2015 would be finalized.

Some assumptions / limitations in this interim budget are:

- Municipal assessments kept the same.
- School tax increase @ 5% . Actual assessments available in Feb 2015
- 2015 Grants not announced yet.
- Some 2014 expenses and/or revenues need to be reviewed after final yearend to determine if 2015 estimates need to be adjusted.
- Water costs from Hwy 12/21 water commission not finalized
- Reserve allocations need to be reviewed once all 2014 transactions are completed
- MPE recommends tendering the Water Distribution System Project #1 in early January to get the best price.
- with the same assessment values on properties – very preliminary estimate
 - residential tax rate reflects 3 % inc
 - commercial tax rate reflects 2 % inc

This interim budget will be readily available to the public on the website this week.

One last item that people need to know about Village Finances and Accounting is that.....

Each year an independent accounting firm (BDO Canada) is hired to audit & prepare an auditor report on the Village's financial processes and statements. This audit is completed in accordance with the Canadian public sector accounting standards. If there were any significant matters of concern to the auditor it would be brought to the council's attention. The auditor submits this report to Municipal Affairs.

Once the final 2014 consolidated financial statements are prepared by the auditor, they are made 'readily available' to the public and will be posted to the website.