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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Rocky Mountain House adopts 2019 operating and capital budgets

No municipal tax increase for residents, business or industry

Rocky Mountain House, Alta. – The Town of Rocky Mountain House council has approved its [2019 operating budget](#) in the amount of \$23,841,300.

Council is proud to introduce the 2019 budget with no increase in municipal taxes for residents, businesses or industry.

“Any increase in cost to our residents and businesses would put additional pressure in a time of economic uncertainty,” said Mayor Tammy Burke. “We challenged ourselves and Town staff to find the most efficient and responsible way to maintain services and infrastructure while still moving our community forward.”

Budget 2019 reflects increased operational spending in Economic Development with decreased operational spending in Protective Services, Transportation and Recreation, all while advancing and achieving the Town’s strategic goals.

“Rocky Mountain House Town Council and town staff scrutinized our budget line-by-line to find nearly \$600,000 in savings this year,” said Burke. “We are also planning for the future, with just over \$2 million being set aside for specified and general reserves. This means less operational burden on our taxpayers now, and in the years to come.”

Council’s new Financial Framework Committee is advancing long-term financial planning and finance policies for the Town to ensure these best budgeting practices continue.

“We want to be leading the province in municipal finance planning, to ensure our ratepayers are getting good value, great service and satisfaction in knowing our public finances are well taken care of,” added Burke.

In 2018 Council set the direction to stop subsidizing water, sewer and solid waste costs through tax dollars by making those user-pay services. This started in January of 2019 and makes the Town more eligible for grants that the Town will need in the future to upgrade our lagoon. Citizens also now have more control of their own costs for water and sewer and can reduce those costs through water conservation.

The 2019 budget will place \$2,081,000 into reserves. This figure includes \$750,000 from Clearwater County as per the Revenue Sharing Agreement, \$698,400 direct transfer to specific reserves and \$632,600 into water and sewer reserves to offset depreciation.

The \$6,321,600 capital budget identifies attainable funding sources for the following capital projects that will improve quality of life and quality of Town services:

- Development of the spray park (subject to Clearwater County cost-sharing approval).
- Covered bleachers and improvements at the North Saskatchewan River Park (subject to grant approval and Clearwater County cost-sharing approval).
- Seats for the Quick Lane Arena (funded by sponsorship dollars).
- Electrical and lighting for Curtis Field (subject to Clearwater County cost-sharing approval).
- Street sweeper and fleet replacement (funded by reserves).
- Lochearn and Swainger playground equipment replacement (funded by reserves).
- Starting construction of 54 Street extension (private funds and debenture).
- Overlaying on 59 Ave., 54 Street and 56 street (funded by reserves).
- Water, sewer and road replacement on 52 Street and 57 Street Close (funded by grants).
- Fire department truck and training trailer (funded by reserves).

The budget directly advances or achieves the following goals in the strategic plan:

- Asset Management both in planning and repair of roads, water, sewer and buildings.
- Planning for a new terminal building at the airport.
- A modernized Land Use Bylaw will be created.
- Construction on 54th Street extension will begin.
- The organizational structure meets service level expectations.
- A new Town website will be created.
- A new promotional video will be created.
- A waste reduction strategy will be developed.

Related documents:

[2019-2021 Operating Budget](#)

[2019 Capital Projects List](#)

[Rocky Mountain House Strategic Plan](#)

[Recreation Master Plan](#)

[Revenue Sharing Agreement](#)

[Recreation Cost-Share Agreement](#)

For more information, please refer to supporting documents or contact:

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