

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE – 2012 BUDGET**

**Date:** January 10, 2012

The 2012 Budget for the Town of Rocky Mountain House was approved Tuesday, December 20, 2011. The budget included capital funding for:

- Recreation Capital Plan
- Sound System/Stage Drapes for the Lou Soppit Community Centre
- Upgrading and Trail Maintenance
- Upgrading John Plathum playground
- Mountain Bike Park concept plan
- Redevelopment – Big Rock
- Trail Masterplan
- Floor Scrubber for the Swimming pool
- Concept study for the arena renovations
- Sound System/PA System for the arena
- Condenser water treatment system for the arena
- Kootenay Zamboni overhead door replacement
- Kootenay arena board replacement and plexi glass replacement at arena
- Replacement of a 5 ton dump truck
- Replacement of an Operations ½ ton truck
- Replacement an Operations line painter
- Replacement of a Recreation ½ ton truck
- Replacement of a Recreation maintenance truck
- Replacement of a Recreation baseball diamond dresser
- Road resurfacing and asphalt on portions of: 54 Ave, 54 St, 53 Ave, 52A Ave & 55A St, 58 St, 71 Ave, 51 St
- Design and engineering for 2013 construction projects
- Sidewalk replacement/repair program
- 46 Street Streetlights
- Water and sanitary main replacement program portions of: Lane near 48 Ave
- Influent Flow Meter replacement at lagoon
- Servicing Study updates
- Lagoon aeration– purchase 3 new aerators
- Folder/Stuffer replacement
- Upgrade computer server, phone server and software purchase
- Storefront incentive program
- Pre conceptual design – Mainstreet
- Offsite Levy Bylaw review
- Where Adventure Begins Entrance Signs maintenance
- Operations multifunction printer
- Cemetery preparation for future columbarium
- Fire Department – Portable radios and Water Rescue Craft
- Town office – carpet replacement

The 2012 budget was approved with an overall budget increase of approximately 2.125% which is \$127,125 for municipal purposes. Assuming your assessment remains the same, this represents an approximate overall tax increase of 1.51% as the municipal portion of your tax bill is approximately 71% of the entire bill. As an example, a 1.51% increase applied to a \$3,000 annual residential property tax bill will be an additional \$45.30 for the entire year if there are no changes to the provincial education requisition. Participants in the monthly payment program will see an increase of approximately \$3.78 per month. This budget maintains present service levels in all areas.

To date the Town has not been advised by the Provincial Government whether education taxes will increase or decrease in 2012. It should be noted that Town Council does not control the education portion of the tax bill.

Anticipated revenues generated by the municipal portion of the 2012 mill rate will be approximately \$5,927,555. The overall annual operating budget for the Town in 2012 is \$16,925,513. The overall capital budget for the Town in 2012 is \$2,913,470.

These tax revenues will help pay for the combined operating and capital budget. The remaining budget expenditures will be paid for through various sources including user fees and provincial, federal and local government grants.

The operating portion of the 2012 budget includes funding to provide or assist in the provision of the following services and facilities: police, fire, snow removal, protective services, municipal planning and development, recreation, culture and community services programming, legislative and administrative services, animal control, road and sidewalk maintenance and construction, cemetery, tourism and economic development, arena, pool, campgrounds and parks, centre, library, museum, visiting centre, affordable housing and emergency management.

Members of Council would welcome comments from the public regarding the 2012 budget. Please call any member of Council or the Town Office if you wish to obtain more information about the 2012 budget.

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