



Tuesday, January 19, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE STATEMENT ON WASTE MANAGEMENT

County Councillor's social media statements are incorrect

Rocky Mountain House, Alta. – The Town of Rocky Mountain House is aware of these social media posts by Clearwater County Councillor Tim Hoven on Jan. 19, 2021:



Tim Hoven

Administration is working on the details now. Our goal is to make sure that garbage ends up in the landfill and not in a ditch somewhere. Since the town is going to be forcing people to recycle and compost by charging them more for garbage going to the landfill, the town and county now needs a system where garbage disposal is tracked so town residents can't avoid the towns fees by using the rural transfer stations. The country doesn't want to charge residents for garbage because we believe that is covered by your taxes. Due to the regional partnership and the towns desire for waste reduction though, the County is having to make a system that works with the towns system. We don't know how it is going to look because we don't know how the towns system is going to work.

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Tim Hoven

it is confusing right now but I am hopeful that it will become more clear as County Admin gets more info together. When the town unilaterally announced the Eco Center in December, it put the County in an awkward position of having to create a new system, transitioning to the new system and educating residents on the new system all at the same time. As we get closer to the end of the month, things will be more clear.

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and wishes to correct several inaccuracies he presented.

1. The Town of Rocky Mountain House is **not** charging its residents or businesses any more for utilities, including solid waste and recycling services.
2. Thanks to [cost savings realized from the dissolution of the Rocky Mountain Regional Solid Waste Authority](#) (RMRSWA), the Town will **increase** service to residents at no additional cost. A **curbside organics** (green bin) program will be introduced this spring, and the Eco Centre is set to **accept even more divertible materials** from Town residents and businesses than was taken at the Waste Transfer Site in Town.
3. Town of Rocky Mountain House **had asked** Clearwater County, managing partner of the RMRSWA, for a resident ID/card system for years. Accurate tracking of users and waste volumes would have ensured the Town's annual requisition for the regional waste authority was equitable for the Town's share of use.



4. The Town **financed its own [waste audit](#)** in 2019. The results of this audit, shared with Town and County residents at a March 2020 open house (prior to Pandemic restrictions on gatherings), showed that **60 per cent users of the Rocky Waste Transfer Station waste disposal are County residents**, while recycling users were split evenly between Town and County.
5. Further, **61 per cent of Town-produced waste is organic**, compostable material and **15 per cent is recyclable**.
6. The Town of Rocky Mountain House **cannot** continue paying to landfill these materials, particularly when the RMRSWA requisition was not based on recorded Town tonnage and usage of its services.
7. Through 2020, The Town and County continued discussions on a new waste agreement based on the general principles agreed upon in 2019: That the County would assume operations of the landfill and rural transfer stations and the Town would take over operations of waste and recycling services provided within the town.
8. Clearwater County was **well aware** of the Town's plans to establish an eco centre. Once the County made clear it would no longer participate in a comprehensive recycling program, the Town acted on its [Eco Centre plan to ensure continuity of service for its residents](#).
9. Solid waste management is a municipal utility. It is the Town's position that utilities operate on a cost-recovery, user-pay basis. This aligns with the Province's strong recommendation for best municipal practices, as cost-recovery service is becoming a requirement for receiving utility grants from higher levels of government.

The Town of Rocky Mountain House has always approached waste management in the interest of environmental and financial responsibility to its residents and businesses.

"We have invited Clearwater County to participate in a more comprehensive recycling program as a positive step forward for waste management in our region," said Mayor Tammy Burke. "But Town residents cannot subsidize County use of the Eco Centre. I am hopeful our Councils will come to an agreement on an equitable funding model, so that both Town and County residents can dispose of all divertible waste in a responsible manner."

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