



Media Release
December 10, 2014

2015 Budget Highlights

Overview:

(INNISFAIL, AB,) At their regular meeting on Monday, December 8, 2014 Council approved the 2015 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Town of Innisfail.

The total Operating Budget approved by Council for 2015 is \$20,049,449, the total Capital Budget approved by Council for 2015 is \$5,793,750.

The Operating Budget as approved by Council anticipates a 2% increase in the tax rates for 2015.

“Keeping up with at least the cost of living increase is needed to sustain efficient services and growth. The Town of Innisfail has proposed minimal tax increases during budget in the last few years to compensate for the cost of living that continues to rise.” – Mayor Brian Spiller

There was no tax increase in 2014, a 1.5 % increase in 2013 and a 3% increase in 2012.

Residential taxes are based upon the market value of the property, since there has been an increase in the market value individual properties may or may not see an increase in property taxes. An average home assessed at \$320,000 will increase \$60 on taxes annually based on property values increasing plus the approved 2% tax increase.

On June 1, 2015 the Town of Innisfail is projected to transport all wastewater to the City of Red Deer Wastewater Treatment Plant. The 2015 payment is 1.8 million, an increase of 1.5 million from 2014. The projected payment for 2016 will be 3 million.

To maintain financial balance and accountability the Town of Innisfail is in year three of a five year sustainability plan to continue payments to South Red Deer Regional Wastewater Commission.

The Town of Innisfail’s tax and utility increase continues to be modest relative to the cost of maintaining quality services while achieving and complying with the needed operational and capital expenditures.

Factors affecting the 2015 Budget:

- Alberta is Canada's fastest growing province. This puts extra pressure on the Town of Innisfail to create and maintain facilities and roads as more people move to Innisfail and Alberta.
- The Town of Innisfail operates the water, wastewater and solid waste systems on a user-pay, break-even basis. Water and Wastewater rates will increase as follows:
Water - \$2.00/cu.meter to \$2.10 based on an increase from the Mountain View Regional Water Commission

- Wastewater - \$2.20/cu meter to \$2.45 based on a 5 cent increase from South Red Deer Regional Wastewater Commission and 20 cent increase as previously outlined in our 20/20 plan proposing 20 cent increases over 5 years in preparation of annual payments of \$3,000,000 per year, further that the flat rate for wastewater increase \$5.00/month from \$10 to \$15. The average homeowner using 10 cubic metres per month will see an \$8.50 per month increase as outlined in the following chart:

Example of an Average Monthly Utility Bill at 10 Cubic Metres per Month		
Description	2014	2015
Water Flat Rate	\$10.00	\$10.00
Per Cubic Metre Water	\$20.00	\$21.00
Sanitary Flat Rate	\$10.00	\$15.00
Per Cubic Metre Sanitary	\$22.00	\$24.50
Garbage	\$17.00	\$17.00
Recycling	\$5.00	\$5.00
Total	\$84.00	\$92.50

Other 2015 Budget Highlights include:

- Rates for Garbage and Recycling have remained the same.
- Completion of the final payment for the new school gym allows the reallocation of monies to develop new trails, and to improve and repair recreational parks / recreational facilities.
- The 2015 budget proposes to borrow 1.3 million to construct a new lift station required for development of the Woodlands subdivision
- Addition of a new RCMP Officer
- Fire Department contribution to reserve for replacement of future equipment
- Construction of Napoleon Meadows – Phase II (Landscaping)
- Waste Transfer Station Access and Site improvements
- Replace water/sanitary service in lane between 45th St and 46th St.
- SW Commercial Site Development – 42 Ave and Highway 54
- Design for two future construction projects – 41st St and 49A Ave and the NE Trunk Main Upgrade
- Upgrades to Water Reservoir 2 and re-lining sewer collection mains and manhole lining to continue addressing infiltration

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For more information:

Brian Spiller, Mayor
Town of Innisfail
403-227-3376

Helen Dietz, CAO
Town of Innisfail
403-227-3376

Heather Whymark, Director Corporate Services
Town of Innisfail
403-227-3376