

M.D. of Bonnyville Media Release April 24, 2013

M.D. Council passes 2013 budget

\$55.6 million allocated to road improvements

The Municipal District of Bonnyville Council approved a balanced \$101,217,954 budget on Wednesday.

Reeve Ed Rondeau said Council has maintained the same mill rates for the 2013 tax year. However, M.D. residents will see an average 6.33 per cent increase on their tax bills, due to an increase in property values and an increase to the provincial school tax rate. “The School Requisition from the province increased to \$11.2 million in 2013, from \$9.9 million last year,” he explained. Farm tax bills will see an average increase of 3.02 per cent, while non-residential tax bills will see an average increase of 3.96 per cent.

“Looking at the school portion of the tax bill,” Rondeau said, “the provincial school tax rates increased by 8.65 per cent for residential properties, while non-residential school taxes went up by 3.77 per cent. Council does not set the amount of the school tax requisition – it is set by the Province of Alberta.”

For the municipal portion of the tax bill, Council agreed to keep the Residential mill rate at 2.7663, the Farm mill rate at 4.0000 and the Non-Residential mill rate at 14.0000.

Rondeau pointed out that the tax increases will not be the same for residents across the M.D. “There are property market “hot spots” in the M.D. This year it’s on the west side of the M.D., going north to La Corey. Residents in that area, who didn’t see a market increase in previous years, will see it this year. In previous years, the “hot spots” were found around lakes and properties near Bonnyville and Cold Lake. Now the rural areas are catching up in their assessed values.”

Council’s top priority for 2013 is again road maintenance and construction Rondeau emphasized. “This year the Public Works Department will be fully staffed and we have all the required equipment in place for our construction and maintenance crews. All we need is good weather to arrive and the crews will be out on the roads.”

A total of \$36.5 million has been put into road improvements and construction for gravel, oiled, and paved roads and bridge improvements. Another \$15.4 million has been put to gravel and oiled road maintenance.

“By putting \$55.6 million into roads: \$7.2 million for gravel roads; \$7.1 million for oiled roads; \$22.1 million for paved roads; \$100,000 for bridge improvements; \$15.4 million for gravel/oil road maintenance and \$3.7 million for Public Works Equipment, Council is continuing to attack the M.D.’s road deficit,” Rondeau said.

Other 2013 budget items include \$1.8 million for landfill operations, Rural High Speed Internet \$500,000, the completion of the Administration Office renovation/expansion \$1.1 million, Kinosoo Ridge chair lift \$1.9 million, Regional Fire Training Centre Phase II \$200,000, Bonnyville and District Centennial Centre \$1 million, School Requisitions \$11.2 million and Lakeland Lodge requisition \$258,842. Community Halls receive a total of \$800,000, with each hall getting an annual \$35,000 operating grant. The Regional Community Development Agreement increased to one mill this year, with \$862,214 being distributed to the Town of Bonnyville and \$126,775 going to the Village of Glendon. For the first time the agricultural societies in the three urban centres – Cold Lake, Bonnyville and Glendon – will receive \$20,000 each for a total of \$60,000.

Rondeau said now that the budget is passed the combined Tax and Assessment notices will be sent out May 24. He urged residents to review their tax notice carefully. If residents have any questions regarding their tax notice they are asked to contact the M.D. Tax Department at 780.826.3171.

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