



April 22, 2021

News Release

Jasper Council Approves 2021 Operating Budget

At the April 20 regular meeting, Council approved the 2021 operating budget for the Municipality of Jasper with a net tax envelope of \$8,891,323. Prior to final approval of the budget Council voted to decrease the operating funding for various departments in the amount of \$249,000, and transfer this amount to reserves instead. This change does not impact the amount of property taxes to be collected for 2021.

As a part of the 2021 operating budget, Council also approved the creation of a one-time property tax credit of \$1M and a COVID Recovery Reserve of \$775,000. The tax credit will automatically be applied to all residential and non-residential properties to reduce the net tax payable, in an effort to mitigate the impact to property taxpayers of a transition back to more regular municipal funding levels.

The COVID Recovery Reserve provides Council an opportunity to take further steps to assist the community in managing the financial impacts of the pandemic. Council will define the specific uses of the reserve in the coming weeks.

Overall, after the application of the one-time tax credit, the total municipal tax payable of approximately \$227 per \$100,000 of residential property assessment will be lower than 2019 (\$233/\$100K) or any time in the last 10 years.

“The 2021 operating budget is a step towards restoring municipal services as they were pre-pandemic, while considering the devastating economic impacts of COVID-19 on our residents, businesses and property tax payers,” says Jasper Mayor Richard Ireland. “With the help of the one-time provincial Municipal Operating Support Transfer (MOST) funding, Council has prioritized broad-based relief to residential and commercial property owners; set aside reserve funding to offset potential ongoing revenue losses; and provided a framework to enable targeted relief and recovery efforts going forward.”

Detailed and finalized operating budget documents will be available on the municipal website in coming days. The proposed 2021 operating budget is presented in the April 20, 2021 Council meeting agenda.

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