



## MEMO

To: Mayor & Council

From: Sarah Wilson, Director of Finance

Date: April 17, 2023

Re: 2023/24 Operating Budget Approval

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The Operating Budget was presented to Council on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The presentation included the General Rate, Mandatory Provincial Contribution Area Rate, Community Support Area Rate, Solid Waste, Sewage and Water Utility.

At the end of the meeting, direction was given to staff to find \$60,000 to add back the Youth Free Ice budget in the Community Support Area Rate. To make this change one cent (\$0.01) was added to the Community Support Area Rate and the General Rate was reduced by one cent (\$0.01). Staff were also directed to include \$25,000 for business development/tourism activities in the General Rate budget. The budget changes made since the presentation to Council were:

**Community Support Area Rate - Added \$0.01 (one cent) \$62,016 to the rate for:**

\$ 60,000	Youth Free Ice - added back to budget.
2,016	Other Community Events (to balance the rate).
\$ 62,016	

**General Rate - Reduced the rate by \$0.01 (one cent) \$62,016 from the following:**

-\$ 10,300	Reduction of allowance for salary adjustments.
- 25,000	Increase in investment income to allow for interest on CJSMA funds (April - July). Timing of receipt of these funds was not known when budget was presented.
- 11,700	Reduction of estimated increases for APA Blue Cross & Group Insurance. Rates will not change, received this information on April 5th.
- 10,000	Increase in grant from Eastward Energy (formerly Heritage Gas) based on actual grant received in 2022/23. Received this information on March 30th after budget was balanced and presentation prepared.
- 16	Adjustment to balance.
20,000	Increased promotion for development/tourism by additional \$20,000 (\$5,000 had already been included. Funding full \$25,000 from Operating Reserve - Economic Development).
- 25,000	Transfer from Operating Reserve - Economic Development for development/tourism promotions.
-\$ 62,016	





The following motions/resolutions for the approval of the operating budget will be brought forth to the Council meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023:

- General Rate
- Mandatory Provincial Contribution Area Rate
- Community Support Area Rate
- Solid Waste Management Uniform Charge
- Sewer Rates
- Wastewater Treatment Facility Uniform Charge
- Water Utility Operating Budget
- User Fee Policy
  - Amendment to Uniform Charge Solid Waste from \$185 to \$268.
- Tax Exemption Policy
  - Amendment to remove Cumberland Columbia Club – Robie Street properties.
- Salary Administration Policy
  - Amendment to student wage rates.
- Community Support Grants Policy
  - Amendment to rename Poverty Reduction to Social Equity and to remove the reference of Deed Transfer Tax as the source of funding.

In the above motions/resolutions there are increases in the Water Utility rates per the UARB and the Uniform Charge for Solid Waste (from \$185 to \$268).

Although there were changes to the General Rate, Mandatory Provincial Contribution Area Rate and the Community Support Area Rate, the overall tax rates remain the same at \$1.67 for Residential/Resource and \$4.47 for Commercial. The sewer rates and Wastewater Treatment Facility Uniform Charge remain the same also.

