

January 21, 2013

Document shares City's financial plan and property taxation information

Council to consider capital projects, new projects and services and potential service level enhancements during January budget deliberations

The City of Campbell River has posted a Budget 2013 Frequently Asked Questions document online for people interested in learning more about the City's financial plan ahead of budget talks coming up Jan. 28-30.

The document is posted on the City's website (www.campbellriver.ca) under *What's New*. For people without Internet access, paper copies of the document are available at City Hall.

"We'd like to remind residents that there will be an opportunity for them to share ideas about services currently provided, options about possible service reductions or elimination and requests for new and enhanced services by speaking for up to five minutes at the beginning of the budget meetings on Jan. 28 and 29," says Laura Ciarniello, the City's general manager of corporate services.

People wishing to speak at the beginning of the Council meeting are asked to register in advance by calling 250-286-5700.

"Citizens who are unable to attend the meetings can also send their comments in a letter to City Hall, which will be reviewed by Council – or contact members of Council by telephone or email," Ciarniello adds.

During the Jan. 28-30 meetings, Council will discuss capital projects (funded out of reserves or from grant opportunities that do not affect general operating funds) and potential service level increases, for new, enhanced or previously-supplied services.

At a Dec. 4 meeting, Council endorsed a core services operating budget for 2013 that will provide similar services to the 2012 levels.

The anticipated tax increase to maintain most services at the 2012 level is approximately two per cent (2%) for the residential tax class (no property tax increase for other tax classes). This amounts to approximately \$28.33 per year for the average home in Campbell River (valued at \$268,000 in 2012). This cost increase reflects contract and wage obligations. The basic operating budget also includes items already approved by Council such as grants in aid (\$527,079), permissive tax exemptions (\$627,282) for non-profit community organizations and one-time grants to the Tidemark Theatre (\$250,000) and Campbell River Creative Industries Council (\$30,000).

The City of Campbell River is legally required to table a balanced budget and to adopt a taxation bylaw before May 15, 2013.

The January budget meetings will be held in Council Chambers at City Hall, beginning at 9 a.m. The meetings are open to the public and will be broadcast live on the City's website and televised on Shaw TV Wednesday afternoon and evening (schedule permitting).

For more information about the City's 2013 budget, please contact the City's Finance Department at 250-286-5700.

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