

January 29, 2014

Council approves capital projects for 2014 budget – Sets property tax increase at 2.92%

At its January 29 meeting, City Council finalized Campbell River's 2014 budget with a 2.92 per cent property tax increase for Campbell River residents.

The increase equates to approximately \$41.26 per year for the average Campbell River home (valued at \$257,000). Council also re-affirmed the Parks Parcel Tax rate of \$25 for 2014 and confirmed no property tax increase for the business tax classes.

Properties in the Managed Forest Lands tax class will see an increase phased in over three years, starting in 2014, that will generate \$33,926 in the first year. The Utilities tax class will see increases phased in over four years, with only half the first year's amount (\$52,568) applied in 2014, and the remainder spread out through 2017.

Council approved extensive capital plans for sewer and water infrastructure – projects such as the Water Intake System (project in combination with BC Hydro), annual water and sewer main renewal programs and Norm Wood Environmental Centre upgrades. This five-year plan involves borrowing up to \$15 million dollars for sewer and water, with a repayment term of 15 years.

Highlights of capital projects approved:

- Airport Fueling Facility - \$600,000
- Ladder Fire Truck Replacement - \$500,000
- RCMP CCTV (Video Surveillance) - \$250,000
- Museum Chiller & HVAC Controls - \$155,000
- Foreshore Project - \$630,000
- Ostler Park Improvements - \$115,000
- Centennial Pool Basin Repair - \$100,000
- Pave Willow Point Parking Lot - \$90,000
- Sidewalk Infill - \$350,000
- Traffic Control Intersections - \$250,000
- Paving McIvor Lake Road - \$100,000
- Argonaut Road Repaving - \$260,000
- Holly Hills Drainage Improvements - \$540,000

Funding sources for these capital projects included the airport improvement fee reserve, capital works reserve, financial stabilization reserve, community works fund, parks parcel tax reserve, roads DCC's, grant or external contributions and storm parcel tax reserve.

"The final Capital Phase of this year's Financial Plan has been the most challenging as the 'asks' far outweigh the City's funding capacity," says Councillor Andy Adams, Council's chair of the Finance Committee. "Council has addressed some of the key capital funding for new and replacement infrastructure such as parks, roads, vehicles, airport, fire, facilities and capital projects, however this council and future councils must continue to pressure our Provincial and Federal government partners for major infrastructure funding programs in order to complete the necessary major road, water and sewer infrastructure projects that are required for the growth and safety of our community."

Adams adds: *"To maintain a commitment to financial stability through ongoing maintenance and asset replacement funding for facilities, equipment and infrastructure, Council sees the need to replenish capital reserves to ensure that both current and future taxpayers fund daily-used*



infrastructure. By apportioning funds for annual reserve allocations, Council is building financial resilience upon which the community will continue to prosper.”

View recordings of the budget meetings on the City’s website (click on the Council Webcast button).

City services include: drinking water, sewer, emergency response, garbage, recycling and yard waste collection, flood protection, streets, sidewalks and traffic control, public recreation facilities, planning and building inspection, law enforcement and firefighters, parks, recreation and culture, transit and airport, environmental management, economic development, museum, art gallery and other facilities.

For more information about the City’s 2014 budget, please contact the City’s Finance Manager, Myriah Foort, CA at 250-286-5782.

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