

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2022

Town Council passes Millrate Bylaw During Regular Meeting of Council

During the Regular Meeting of Council on May 4, 2022, Town Council passed Mill Rate Bylaw 2022/05/F, setting the tax rate for 2022. The adoption of this mill rate will support the 2022 Capital and Operating Budgets passed in December 2021, and February 2022 respectively. As part of a new budget process, Council held a strategic planning session to identify priorities and determine the capital project list for 2022. This new approach helped minimize repetition in the budget process and ensure that the budget aligned with the strategic direction of Mayor and Council.

The Final Capital Budget, which was passed in December 2021, includes projects such as a slide and bouldering wall for the new Aquatic Facility, replacement of sidewalks and trails that are in need of repair, upgrades to the audio/visual equipment at the MacKenzie Conference Centre and the Clean Energy Technology Centre, expanding the landfill to meet future needs, expansion of the Meraw storm pond, and a new Command Truck for the Fire Department.

In February 2022, Town Council passed the Final Operating Budget which included a proposed increase in revenue of 2.5%. Like most businesses and municipalities, the Town of Drayton Valley is contending with the rising costs of goods and services due to inflation; the cost of doing business, maintaining services, and looking after infrastructure, roads, parks, and amenities is increasing. While the Town is increasing its revenues by 2.5% to meet the capital and operational needs of the community, the average taxpayer will only see a 1.14% increase in municipal taxes due to increases in property assessments. It was important to Council that the tax rate be kept as low as possible to minimize the impact to resident's while being mindful of the necessary revenues required to plan appropriately for the future and allow Administration to continue with regular operations and scheduled maintenance. Within the 2022 Operating Budget, residents can expect increased funding for snow removal activities, desludging of the lagoons at the Water Treatment Plant that will reduce odors experienced by nearby residents, and the installation of four lighted crosswalk signs to improve safety at current crosswalks. In addition, the Ricochet Oil Corp. Aquatic Facility, set to open in the fall of 2022, will be included as part of the Town's future infrastructure and expenses. Of the 2.5% increase in revenue, 0.5% will be attributed to a sustainable tax levy which will see the sustainable management of Town infrastructure and assets, while the remaining 2% will go towards operating expenses and service delivery.

"With the new year in full swing, I'm excited about the progress being made in our community!" said Mayor Nancy Dodds. "Great strides are being made in both social and economic avenues, and I see Drayton Valley being set up for huge success. While the last few years have been hard, I continue to look to the future and feel immense pride at the foundation we're building."

Following the passing of the mill rate, tax notices will be mailed out to residents beginning May 12, 2022.

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