
County of Wetaskiwin No. 10

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Wetaskiwin, AB, T9A 2G5
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NEWS RELEASE

May 28, 2020

Council approves 0% tax increase on residential municipal taxes

The operating and capital budget was approved by Council on January 29, 2020, and the tax rate bylaw for 2020 was approved by Council on May 12, 2020. The 2020 budget value is \$19.4 million compared to the 2019 value of \$19.6 million.

What impact does the budget have on taxes?

The average residential ratepayer will see a 0% increase to municipal taxes on their tax notice. However, this may vary for properties that have experienced an increase or decrease in market value.

The average non-residential commercial ratepayer will see a 0.88% increase on their tax notice; however, Council has passed a tax incentive bylaw that will result in a 5% reduction based on the first \$500,000 of assessment.

"Council has worked very hard to hold the line on taxes in the 2020 budget while keeping your level of service constant" said Reeve Terry Van de Kraats. "Factors outside our control may impact the total taxes you pay. We are very cognizant of the challenges our ratepayers are faced with and have incorporated other changes to lessen the impacts on you. Further, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your diligence in following Alberta Health rules to keep our communities safe. I encourage you to continue to follow the rules as we move forward and together we can limit our risks of a further COVID-19 outbreak."

Council has authorized a \$200,000 County wide Fire Fighting Operating Tax, which has been rolled into the municipal mill rate. This means that if a citizen has a fire on their property, they will not receive an invoice, unless it is deemed that negligent burning took place or they are in contravention of the County's Fire Bylaw.

Commencing in 2020, Council has added the Provincial Police Tax, which will be visible as a separate line item on your tax notice. This line is to cover the additional cost of policing due to the Government of Alberta changes to the police funding model. These changes will result in the County paying an additional \$284,800 in January 2021 and \$427,500 in April 2021 to the provincial government. These costs will result in an approximate 2% increase on your residential taxes.

Provincial government legislation requires all municipalities to collect education property taxes on behalf of the Province of Alberta. The County also collects on behalf of the Wetaskiwin and Area Lodge Authority for seniors housing facilities. For 2020, approximately 45% of residential taxes are transferred to the province for education purposes and 3% for Lodge Authority purposes.

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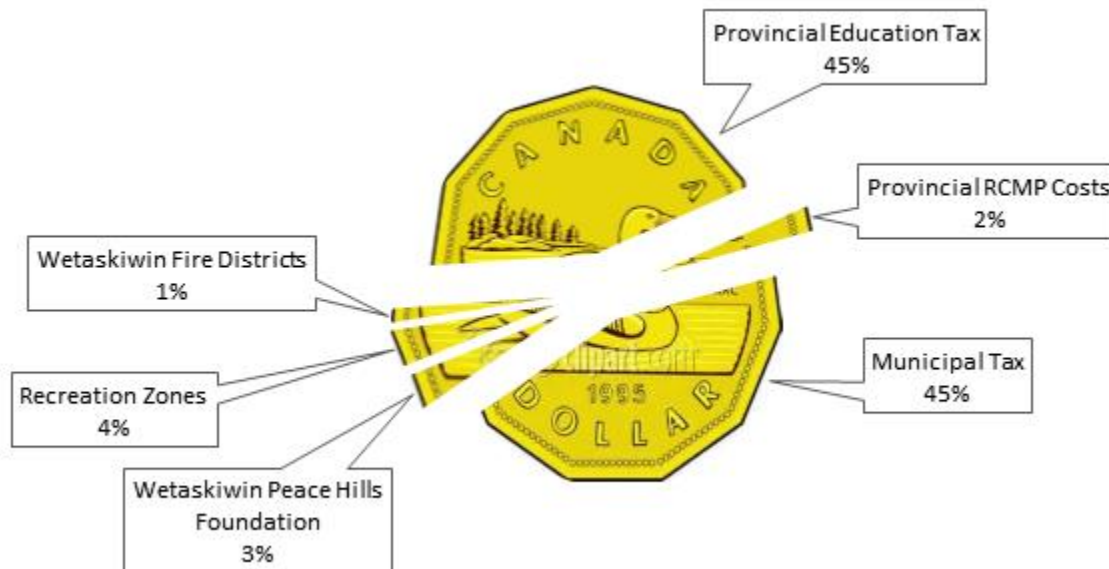


NEWS RELEASE

Budget highlights include:

- Continued work completed under the 5-year Road Construction Plan.
- An addition of \$100,000 from under spent MSI Operating Grant.
- A Supplementary Assessment Bylaw was passed in 2020, which will allow the County to collect tax on property improvements the same year the improvements are made.

The following chart is a breakdown of the residential revenues for the 2020 budget:



Pursuant to Section 311 of the *Municipal Government Act*, Chapter M-26.1, and by this release, be advised that the Assessment Notices for the municipality will be mailed by June 5, 2020. All assessed persons are deemed to have received their Assessment Notices as a result of this publication.

Please notify the County of Wetaskiwin No. 10 if you have not received your notice within a reasonable time frame.

For further information, please contact Eric Hofbauer, Director of Finance, at (780) 361-6228 or via email at ehofbauer@county10.ca or Rod Hawken, Chief Administrative Officer, at (780) 361-6225 or via email at rhawken@county10.ca.

Any County ratepayer that would like to have their assessment explained by an assessor may do so by contacting the Assessment Department at (780) 361-6237 or toll free at 1-800-661-4125.