

Council Corner



Council passes 0% tax increase - required payments out of Town control

May 9th, 2022, saw the passing of the Town of Tofield's 2022 Mill Rate Bylaw, for the purposes of taxation. Council voted unanimously to implement a nil (0%) increase to the Municipal portion of property taxes.

Now, it is important to note that there are other requirements built into the taxes which will receive their own mill rate and are outside of the Town's control. These further requirements being, Beaver Emergency Services Commission (BESC), Beaver Foundation, Alberta Policing, and the School Foundation Fund. Each of the aforementioned must be paid and built into the total combined mill rate each year.

Beaver Emergency Services (BESC) may be an unknown service to many. Therefore, Council felt it important to provide a descriptor. BESC provides fire protection services to Tofield and Beaver County on a

whole. These services include the operation of fire halls, as well as the maintenance, upkeep and purchasing of buildings and equipment, such as firetrucks and tankers to provide this essential service to the communities they support.

To provide further clarity on these additional, necessary areas a breakdown will be provided below:

1. BESC – The BESC requisition for 2022 will see an amount of \$251,122.
2. The Town is required to levy taxes to pay the School Foundation Fund, this is \$686,528.
3. The Town is also required to

levy taxes to pay the requisition to the Beaver Foundation (seniors housing). The Foundation requisition is \$104,870

4. Alberta Policing – This amount will be \$62,321 for 2022. This fee is being charged to all municipalities, as the former threshold for pay, was municipalities 5,000 and higher. This amount will continue to increase through the province for the next two years at least.

As one can see in the above breakdown, requisitions from other agencies contributed to an increase outside of the Town's control. Therefore, overall, the total combined Mill

Rate (Municipal, School, Seniors Foundation, Policing and BESC) will see varying increases on individual properties. Council felt it important for property owners to be aware of the breakdowns which are required outside of simply the municipal component.

Council remains committed to the citizens of Tofield and felt that a 0% increase to Municipal Taxes, for the purposes of Municipal Operations was necessary. Your voices have been heard and Council will continue to remain fiscally prudent.

*Respectfully submitted,
Tofield Mayor and Council*

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Build the Future

The Town of
Tofield