

INTRODUCTION

- Warfield Council has now reviewed the Village's 2022 – 2026 Financial Plan. Over a series of 3 meetings, Council discussed the priorities of the Village, the financial implications contained in the Financial Plan and made adjustments during Council's review.
- The Village has a relatively small property tax levy, with a total property tax levy in 2021 of \$917,700, which includes revenue generated from the Works and Services parcel tax. The 2022 Budget includes a tax levy of \$1,024,350, which is an increase in the levy of \$106,650 when compared to last year.
- Council was presented with a Provisional Budget that originally included an increase in the property tax levy of \$212,600 and made changes to the Financial Plan, which reflects the increase in the property tax levy now proposed.
- As part of reviewing the Financial Plan, Council focussed on the levels of service, service delivery options, the longer-term financial implications of decision, incorporating a sustainable level of infrastructure spending and balancing the needs of the Village with a reasonable level of property tax increase.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Budget adjustments were made to more closely reflect the historical service levels and cost of services being provided as well as ensuring that all current and future financial commitments are fully funded.
- There was an increase in user revenues to reflect pre-pandemic revenues that the Village was collecting in such areas as the pool and the community hall. Revenue risks are fully mitigated and backstopped with a Covid-19 Safe Restart Grant provided by the Province.
- Grant revenues were adjusted to reflect expected revenues that offset specific services. The Village obtains strong support from the Columbia Basin Trust. Grants received in 2022 will offset the costs of the youth services (YAN) and the services provided by the Warfield Food Action Committee (WFAC).
- Operating expenses are adjusted and incorporate the following:
 - The addition of a part-time Chief Financial Officer. The Village administrative staff currently consists of a full-time Chief Administrative Officer/Corporate Officer, a part-time Chief Financial Officer and two full-time administrative staff. Funding for staff is included as part of General Government Services Budget (see chart below).
 - Council decided against taking an increase in their stipends for 2022.
 - The provision of part-time Bylaw Enforcement Officer included in a fee for service agreement with the City of Rossland.
 - The budget includes the addition of a fourth full-time member in the Public Works Department. This additional staff member will ensure that the Village is able to provide a consistent level of service and should also result in savings for services the Village previously contracted out.

- The budget includes funding for ongoing planning services (Environmental Development). The Village is currently exploring opportunities to enhance this service by entering into an agreement to deal with the Approving Officer function.
- Recreation and Culture provides funding for a number of services including the preschool program, YAN, pool operations, parks, community hall, special events and WFAC. This budget includes funding for the agreement with Trail for recreation services as well as a funding enhancement for the provision of a shared regional Age Friendly Coordinator position.
- The Capital Budgets are enhanced. Council considered a number of capital projects and affirmed the need to more directly focus on improving the Village’s infrastructure. Some of the projects approved this year include the following:
 - Beaver Bend Park Restoration \$176,000 – grant funding.
 - Fire Hall Bay and Lighting Improvements \$35,000 – Covid 19 Safe Restart funding.
 - Village Office Improvements \$75,000 – Covid 19 Safe Restart funding.
 - Storm Sewer Capacity Assessment \$50,000 – Federal Gas Tax funding.
 - Water Intake predesign and preliminary design \$345,000 – Water user revenue and water reserve funding. Once completed this will solidify the Village’s plan to construct a water intake that is independent from Teck. More information on this project will be provided.
 - Dickens/Gordon pressure reducing valve \$75,000 – Water user revenue and water reserve funding.
 - Auto chlorine shutoff at Water Treatment Plant \$33,000 – Federal Gas Tax funding.
 - Sewer line remediation \$150,000 – Sewer user revenue and surplus funding.
 - Utility line camera \$15,000 – Sewer surplus funding.

The consolidated 2022 capital expenditure budget is \$1.199 million. The funding mix keeps property tax increases and fees at what is felt to be a reasonable level. The five-year plan builds in an incremental funding approach as part of gradually increasing dedicated infrastructure funding that is required to address the Village’s ongoing capital requirements.

PROPERTY TAX IMPLICATIONS

- The Village’s assessment base is 96% residential and therefore increases in the property tax levy impact the residential base the most significantly.
- The average residential home in the Village is now assessed at \$388,415. This represents an increase of \$89,160 or 29.79% over 2021, when the average home was assessed at \$299,255.
- Preliminary calculations indicate that the average residential home will see a \$123 increase in Village of Warfield property assessment based taxes when compared to 2021.
- In addition to property taxes that are based on the assessed value of a residential home, the Village levies a number of separate user fees and parcel taxes, including the annual water and garbage invoice that was sent out earlier this year.

When considering the total property taxes, user fees and parcel taxes, the average residential property, will pay an additional \$176 in 2022 to \$2,675 (total) from \$2,499 in 2021.

- It is important to note that the estimates provided above are based on the “average” residence and individual impacts will vary depending on total assessment and if the assessed value of the property increased above or below the average assessment increase. In addition, these estimates do not include property taxes levied by other governments including: the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary; Provincial School and Police; Hospital; BC Assessment Authority.

SUMMARY

- The public is welcome to comment or submit questions.
- You can contact the Mayor or any member of Council through the email addresses provided at the Village’s Website at www.warfield.ca or Village staff at finance@warfield.ca

VILLAGE OF WARFIELD GENERAL OPERATING FUND EXPENDITURE DISTRIBUTION – 2022

