

## **INTRODUCTION**

- Warfield Council has now reviewed the Village’s 2023 – 2027 Financial Plan.
- The Village’s property tax levy is relatively small with a total property tax levy in 2022 of \$1.030 million, which includes revenue generated from the Works and Services parcel tax and utility taxes.
- The 2023 Budget includes a tax levy of \$1.133 million which is an increase in the levy of \$102,800 as compared to 2022.
- As part of reviewing the Financial Plan, Council focusses on the levels of service, service delivery options, the longer-term financial implications of decisions, reviewing infrastructure requirements and spending, within the framework of balancing the needs of the Village with a reasonable level of property tax increase.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Budget adjustments continue to be made to properly reflect current levels of service. This includes ensuring that all current and future financial commitments are fully funded.
- Other than the increase in the property tax levy, revenues from other sources remain static. There is effectively no new growth in the assessment base and therefore existing property owners will see adjustments to property taxes paid in accordance with the Village’s property tax levy increase.
- Operating expenses are adjusted and incorporate the following:
  - Council reviewed the Village’s organizational structure and in general administration, overall costs for salaries and benefits have not changed over the previous year.
  - Council decided against taking an increase based on the consumer price index (CPI) in their stipends for 2023 (6.3%) in accordance with the Council Remuneration Bylaw and rather agreed to increase their stipend by 3%.
  - The Village will continue to receive Bylaw Enforcement services provided in a fee for service agreement with the City of Rossland. Council will adopt a Bylaw Enforcement Notice Bylaw which will provide the Bylaw Enforcement Officer with the legal authority to issue tickets and levy fines when there are violations of the listed regulatory bylaws.
  - The Public Works Department is now fully staffed with 4 full-time public works employees. Progress is being made as far as process improvements are concerned with the Village striving to provide more services in-house.
  - The budget includes funding for ongoing planning services (Environmental Development), with the Village retaining a contract Approving Officer. The budget provides funding to complete a comprehensive development plan of Emerald Ridge in the hopes that new development will proceed in the future.

- Recreation and Culture provides funding for a number of services including the preschool program, Age Friendly Coordinator and related programming, youth action network, pool operations, parks, community hall, special events and the food advisory. A significant cost within this budget includes \$145,400 in funding for the agreement with Trail for recreation and library services. This agreement with Trail continues until 2025.
- The Capital Budgets and associated projects have not yet been finalized. The Village was happy to receive news that the Province will be providing local governments with additional funding for infrastructure in 2023. The Village is waiting to receive further details from the Province after which time the capital projects for 2023 will be reviewed and approved. This will provide approximately \$500,000 in additional capital funding.

Council will be reviewing capital projects that include the purchase of a Vector truck that will be used by public works that is budgeted to cost \$250,000. This versatile piece of equipment has many applications and the purchase will see work that was previously contracted out, completed in-house, ultimately resulting in financial savings and improved service.

Other projects include engineering works as part of designing a new water intake. \$200,000 is budgeted in the water capital fund in 2023 as detailed engineering works proceeds. Council will be consulting with the public later in 2023 as part of providing more information regarding the project, the estimated cost and how the multimillion-dollar project will be financed.

## PROPERTY TAX IMPLICATIONS

- The Village's assessment base is 98% residential and therefore increases in the property tax levy impact the residential base the most significantly.
- The average residential home in the Village in 2023 is now assessed at \$417,117. This represents an increase of \$28,702 or 7.39% over 2022, when the average home was assessed at \$388,415.
- Preliminary calculations indicate that the average residential home will see a \$125 increase in Village of Warfield property tax levy when compared to the 2021 average amount paid.
- 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 operating and garbage collection, sewer parcel tax and water parcel tax.
- When considering the total property taxes, user fees and parcel taxes, the average residential property owner, will pay an additional \$222 in 2023 to \$2,897 (total Village of Warfield ) from \$2,675 in 2021.
- Estimates provided are based on the "average" residence and individual impacts will vary depending on the total assessment of the property and if the assessed value increased at a rate 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 (RDKB); Provincial School and Police; Hospital; BC Assessment Authority.
- The Village is aware that RDKB levies will be increasing in 2023 and in future years as the RDKB incurs expenses to provide a higher level of service for solid waste management and moves towards significant upgrades at the Columbia Pollution Control Centre (sewage treatment plant).

**SUMMARY**

- The public is welcome to comment or submit questions.
- Committee of the Whole meeting agendas and minutes from the February 21 and 22 meetings can be found online and provide additional detail.
- You can contact the Mayor or any member of Council through the email addresses provided at the Village’s Website at [www.warfield.ca](http://www.warfield.ca) or Village staff at [finance@warfield.ca](mailto:finance@warfield.ca)

**VILLAGE OF WARFIELD**

**GENERAL OPERATING FUND EXPENDITURE DISTRIBUTION – 2023**

