

From: Grant Heer

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 9:25 p.m.

To: Andy Letham

Subject: 2021 Budget

Mr. Mayor, I have had a quick review of the 2021 proposed operating budget. Administration has done a great job preparing this package. However I feel that we cannot continue to absorb annual tax increases. I would like to start off by saying that I am a Director for a Municipality in Alberta. We own and rent a house in Oakwood. We continue to face similar problems with Provincial Grant reductions, inflation, and COVID. We have achieved a 2020 tax increase of .85% and 0% for 2021. Why is it not possible to achieve 0 to .5% tax increase? There are numerous opportunities to reduce costs, examples:

- 0% increase for wages
- Staff reductions, in comparison to other municipalities in the Country staffing levels are on the high side?
- Overtime only for urgent services
- Asset Risk assessment, can assets be extended
- Service level adjustments
- The use of reserves to offset budget shortfall
- Delaying projects, maintenance activities

As a property owner and taxpayer, I feel that with the stress on household incomes or lack of, it is time to take a stand to lead by example, and reduce costs. I understand that these are tough decisions, however I know this can be achieved.

I would appreciate it if there could be a strong effort to create a budget with no tax increase.

Thank you for your consideration, Grant