



Delegation: Rotary Club of Cochrane – Indigenous Innovation Centre

Members of the Rotary Club of Cochrane presented a request to Council to support the development of the new Indigenous Innovation Centre. The presentation included a request for the Town to renew the lease of the current Visitor Centre for the next 5 years, including the associated costs such as the lease, utilities and facility maintenance.

Council directed Administration to review this request and bring forward recommendations for consideration at a future Council meeting.

Annual tax rate bylaw

Assessment notices were mailed in January 2022. Assessed values are now final, except for those with active appeals. Tax bills are scheduled to be mailed by May 30 and payment is due by June 30.

To collect the taxes required as set out in the adopted 2022 budgets, Council sets the annual tax rates by adopting the tax rate bylaw.

The average residential property saw an increase in assessed value – from \$455,900 to \$495,700 – and will experience a \$224/year or \$18/month increase in municipal taxes. As assessment values vary between individual properties and between communities, most property owners will have tax changes that are either higher or lower than the average. This reflects a 6.75% tax increase.

Of the residential property taxes collected, 66.9% supports municipal funding, 32.5% supports Provincial education, and 0.6% supports the Rocky View Foundation.

Annual Community Revitalization Levy (CRL) Tax Rate Bylaw

The CRL tax rate bylaw was adopted in 2012, with a requirement to revitalize 57 acres in the downtown area and spur on development in this underutilized area. This bylaw allows Cochrane to keep the education component of the property taxes in a defined space in the Quarry, requiring the funds to be used to support CRL approved projects within the CRL boundary.

It is estimated that over the life of the bylaw, the Town will receive approximately \$5-\$6M that would have ordinarily gone to the Province. Through this bylaw, the Town has generated \$6M in CRL revenue to date.

Council adopted the CRL Tax Rate Bylaw.

Supplementary Community Revitalization Levy (CRL) Bylaw

Council adopted the supplementary CRL bylaw, with the tax rates set out in the annual CRL property tax rate bylaw.

Data Relocation Funding Request

The majority of the Town's data is stored on Town servers located in Cochrane. However, while reviewing data retention policies, it came to Administration's attention that some of the Town's data is stored in a US datacenter, meaning it is subject to US privacy laws.

Council approved a capital project budget request of \$74,000 for data relocation, to be funded from the IS Technology Reserve.

Route 22 Artist Collective Funding Request

On May 2, Route 22 Artist Collective Ltd. presented to the Committee of the Whole as a delegation with a funding request to support their 2022 operating budget. Council voted to provide the one-time funding of \$50,000 to Route 22 Artist Collective Ltd.

Notice of Motion - Tree Planting and Official Tree Declaration

RancheView School Grade 6 students presented to Council on March 21 requesting Council support their recommendations of Arbor Day declaration, tree planting on school grounds and declaration of the White Spruce as the Official Tree of Cochrane.

Council voted in favour of implementing the recommendations from the Grade 6 students and directed Administration to come back with a long term plan specific to tree planting throughout Cochrane.