



At our last meeting, Council reviewed and accepted the audited financial statements with the auditor and then passed the **Tax Rate Bylaw**. The Tax Rate (or Mill Rate) multiplied by the assessed value of a property equals the municipal property tax. Thanks to the Town's continued growth we have **reduced that rate again**.

Residential property assessment is based on market value and is calculated by an external contracted service, who mostly looks at local sales comparisons of similar properties. Therefore, if your property value rose you might still see an increase in your taxes, although softened a bit by the rate reduction. Unfortunately, any savings the Town achieved for us with the rate reduction will likely be offset by the increase in the Provincial Education Property Tax that I mentioned in my March notes. When you get your assessment notice and have an issue with it, our staff are happy to connect you with the assessor to discuss the changes. If you have questions about the Education Property Tax, better contact the MLA. Council has also **eliminated the \$6.50 /month recycling fee** since this is being covered by the new Provincial program.

There is no major update about our local Healthcare situation. **Dr. Tawfeeq** has been doing a terrific job of covering the long-term and Alfred Egan residents and the hospital has been able to keep to acute care beds open. On top of that he has been handling a regular patient load at the clinic and for a time added a second day of his time in emergency. Unfortunately, that has proven to be a little too much and so it's been agreed that he will just be in emergency on Fridays and a locum will cover for the weekend. Recruitment continues and interview have been conducted, but most of the applicants are International Medical Grads who still need to complete some steps with immigration and the licensing bodies. In the meantime, we will be relying on locums and at times EMS to take the pressure off Dr. Tawfeeq and the rest of the staff. AHS and the Town will continue to share any news through social media and our mass notification system.

Work continues to progress well on housing units in the **Parkview** subdivision and the new Public Works building is nearly complete. There have been questions about from residents in the area about the dust and of course upgrading 6th avenue (the truck route). The current plan is to upgrade and pave 6th avenue in 2026 and 2027 once a lot of the construction is out of the way and we are sure the road won't need to be dug up again. In the meantime, dust suppression material was applied there and some other spots last week. A plan is also being put together to repair 7th avenue from the Visitor Centre to 4th street east. A lot of heavy truck traffic has been very hard on that road as the frost came out this spring.

The **Safe Streets Committee** has created a Facebook page to share information on incidents in the community as well as crime prevention tips. This is a great resource and one worth following. The Town is sharing some of their posts as well. The Committee has raised the issue of improving lighting in various parts of town and our management is currently working on a plan with Fortis, and we should see some improvements by fall. The Committee held an Open House, April 9th at the Library that was fairly well attended. If you missed the Open House and want any of the information from the event or wish to sign up for email notifications of RCMP updates, current scams and so on, reach out to safestreetsbi@gmail.com. Once again, a reminder that the number for the **RCMP Complaint line is 403-545-2100**. For emergencies, call 911.

Thank you to Cory and his staff at Tim Horton's for once again supporting the FCSS Tools for Schools and Meals on Wheels initiatives with proceeds from their **Smile Cookie** campaign. Thanks to the volunteers who decorated cookies. I wasn't able to help out, but I did my best to eat my share!

Having recognized that in the event of a serious emergency or disaster in area, the County, Village and Town will need to be working together, therefore we have created the **Forty Mile Regional Emergency Management Agency** to provide a coordinated response to major incidents in the region.

Have a good spring everyone. Mayor Gordon Reynolds