



Town of Wadena

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2022 Budget Outcome

The Mayor and Council were faced with a Preliminary Budget that included an increase to the municipal mill rate, recreation user fees, and water and sewer fees. Even with all the increases, the ending balance of the Preliminary Budget still showed a deficit of \$140,154. Although a difficult decision, the Preliminary Budget was approved at the April 25, 2022 Special Meeting. This year and next will be financially challenging years and will require careful spending. Council's hope is that the increase will enable the Town to be financially stable moving into the future.

The following are the Details of the 2022 Approved Budget:

Rate Increases

- 20% increase to Recreation Facility User Fees
- 10% increase to Municipal Property Tax Mill Rate
- The water and sewer rate increase are proposed to take effect in the last quarter of 2022. A bylaw still needs to be prepared and submitted to Council, along with an application to Sask Municipal Board, Local Government Committee for the approval of rates.

Budget Deficit

- Funds from the Infrastructure Reserve were needed to offset the deficit of \$140,154. A resolution was passed for the amount to be replenished if enough surplus in 2023.

Permanent Employees/Contract Position

- The Town will not be hiring for the Seasonal Parks and Recreation positions. The duties of the individuals hired for the Playground Program will also include general parks maintenance, and all grass cutting will be performed by our permanent Parks and Recreation employees since the Town has contracted an individual to solely dedicate his time to the cleaning and maintenance of the Hall and Fitness Centre.

Revenue Decrease in Comparison to the 2021 year

- The annual Provincial Municipal Revenue Sharing reduced by \$19,000 due to decrease in population census.
- The Gax Tax - Community Building Fund funding \$77,000. In 2021, a portion of the funding was held back due to insufficient applications. Last year additional applications were submitted, and the Town received the hold back portion of \$77,000 in addition to their annual allocation of \$79,598.

- The Museum applies annually for the Young Canada Works grant of \$13,900. The Museum was denied grant funding.

Expense Increase in Comparison to the 2021 year

- General Insurance (2021 Review/Adjustment) \$16,000
- Power/Gas (Anticipated Inflation) \$17,000
- RCMP Contract (Inflation) \$10,000
- Swimming Pool Operations (no operations in 2021) \$82,000
- Pedestrian Walk Engineering \$11,000
- Pavement Repair General Spots \$30,000
- Snow Removal (Anticipated by yearend) \$42,000
- Grader Engine Control Module (Emergency repair) \$7,245
- Loader Engine (Emergency repair) \$30,970
- Fuel (Anticipated Inflation) \$10,000
- Lagoon Road Gravelling \$4,000
- Culverts/Jetting \$9,200
- Library Maintenance/Door \$3,000
- Rec Centre (Energy Study – future grant funding) \$15,000
- Hall Bathrooms/Kitchen Counter upgrades \$13,000
- Hall PA System - \$8,000
- Pool Liner Completion (initial expense was offset by grant funding) \$182,000
- WTP Distribution Pump Repair \$22,000
- Water Line Repair (emergency) \$16,000
- Lagoon Dredging (last completed in 2011) \$75,000

The general operation expenses are comparable for the years 2021 and 2022.

Projects/Equipment Offset by Reserves

- The Gas Tax - Community Building Fund Reserve will offset the expense of \$93,150 for the Lagoon Force Main and Main Lift Station works to be completed in 2022. The force main work will include for the supply and install of a swab launch assembly in the force main along pipeline. The main lift station work will include for the replacement of the existing brittle and thin piping.
- The Infrastructure Reserve will offset the expense of \$145,000 for the Phase 3 GUDI (Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water) assessment and possible water exploration. Should the water supply fail the Phase 3 GUDI assessment, the Permit to Operate outlines that the Town must be compliant by the year 2025. In compliant meaning either a new well supply (estimated \$700,000) or new water treatment plant (estimated \$10,000,000). Council's focus is towards a new well supply to be undertaken in 2023 and the cost to be offset by the remaining monies in the Infrastructure Reserve.
- The Transportation Reserve will offset the expense of \$85,000 for the possible purchase of a Skid steer. A skid steer is being considered to accommodate the heavier use needed and if purchased, the tool cat would then be utilized by the recreation department.

Transfer to Reserves

The budget also includes for transfers to reserves to assist in funding for emergencies and future year expenditures. Those transfers include:

- Transportation Reserve (equipment) \$6,200
- Gas Tax – Community Building Fund Reserve \$79,598

(The Gas Tax – Community Building Fund monies will be fully spent in 2023. In 2023, the remaining project involves the replacement of valves, effluent pump, and upgrades to SCADA system in the Water Treatment Plant. This funding allotment of the Gas Tax - Community Building Fund ends as of March 31, 2024. Whether or not there will be additional funding in future years is yet to be announced by the Federal Government.)

- Brine Leak Emergency Reserve \$30,000
- Condenser Leak Emergency Reserve \$15,000
- Cemetery (plot sales) \$5,000