



NEWS RELEASE – For Immediate Release April 26, 2010

Final 2010 Operating and Capital Budget Approved

County Council approved its final 2010 operating and capital budget today. Council directed Administration to develop a Tax Rate Bylaw for review and approval at their May 3, 2010 Council meeting. Council's approval of the Tax Rate Bylaw will signal the final legislative approval to the 2010 Budget.

The 2010 budget totals \$80.5 million and includes estimated expenditures of \$44.6 million for operating and \$35.9 million for capital projects. The budget represents a 4.4% increase in the general operating budget from 2009.

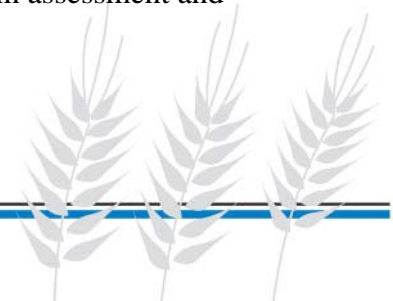
The road construction and rehabilitation budget will see the paving or overlay of approximately 26 kilometers of roadways throughout the County. Provincial infrastructure grants will fund a portion of the road construction projects.

The County of Grande Prairie's interim budget was established in December of 2009. Some of the major changes in the 2010 budget include:

- \$26 million to build the Clairmont sportsplex with funding from the municipal sustainability initiative, reserves and debt financing. Design work is scheduled to begin in 2010.
- \$1 million for regrading 2 miles from Dimsdale east to Flyingshot Lake Road. (Provincial AMIP funding)
- \$675,000 over 2 years for development of Phase 1 of the Wapiti Dunes trail.
- \$20,000 to Hythe Community Centre
- \$10,000 to Grande Spirit Foundation for purchase of a new senior's bus.
- \$10,500 to GP Live Theatre.

New Tax Bylaw

A Tax Bylaw will be presented to Council for approval at Mondays Council meeting and reflects an overall decrease in taxes for residential properties; however some properties may see an opposite change in rates from the average due to change in assessment and location within the County.



The County's taxable assessment base saw a net decrease by 0.8% due to a reduction in market value for residential properties which was offset partially by growth from new development.

Changes in residential property taxes will reflect the varying increases or decreases in market value across the County. For example, an average residential property assessed at \$299,600 which had a 3.4% decrease in assessment due to a drop in market value, would see a reduction of \$6 in municipal taxes and \$1 increase in education taxes, for a net decrease of \$5 or -.5%. However, this will vary across the County based on market change. This would bring the total tax levy for this property, including education and requisition, to \$1842.

There will be a 0.5% decrease in tax revenue for non-residential and farmland. However, some properties may experience an increase reflective of their market value change.

For further information on the 2010 budget and taxation rates, please contact our office at 780-532-9722, or for assessment information call 780-513-3952.

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For more information contact:

Bill Rogan
Administrator
Phone: 780-532-9722

Everett McDonald
Reeve
Phone: 780-831-8590