



Beaver County Service Centre
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2017 Budget and Mill Rates

*News Release – For Immediate Release
Thursday, April 27, 2017*

Council Approves 2017 Budget and Establishes Mill Rates for Taxation

On Monday April 24, 2017, Council approved the Beaver County operating and capital budget for 2017. The budget balances the need for quality services with the challenges of a changing and difficult fiscal environment.

“This is a tough budget year, but with some savings from previous years, we managed to keep the current budget reasonable in difficult times. There was a significant drop in industrial and commercial assessment in our County, which means some of the tax portion needs to be picked up by residential and farmland taxpayers” says Reeve Kevin Smook. “Our overall spending is virtually the same as last year while keeping most services essentially the same for 2017.”

In addition to maintaining existing service levels, the nearly \$22 million budget includes funding to implement the new municipal sustainability plan, continued cooperative efforts with the Towns, Villages, and our rural neighbours, preparation of a regional waterline strategy, solar energy initiatives, 47 miles of road construction (shoulder pulls, soil cement, oiling), bridge repairs, continued support for local community groups, and implementation of the County’s long-range financial plan to ensure our viability and fiscal accountability.

While cuts were made to the budget to minimize tax increases, they were not enough to offset the reduction in assessment. The County lost \$3.2 million in assessment, which is the equivalent of \$238,000 in tax revenue, and further budget reductions would have negatively impacted the quality of service ratepayers enjoy.

Tax notices will be sent out very soon with a deadline for payment of October 31, 2017. Beaver County residents can find out more about the budget and mill rates at www.beaver.ab.ca.

Budget Highlights

Capital Budget

The Capital Budget includes the following projects:

- Base stabilization and surfacing of Twp Rd 492 for approximately 5 miles. Cost is \$1,150,000.
- Base stabilization and surfacing of Rge Rd 203 for approximately 2 miles. Cost is \$460,000.
- Base stabilization and surfacing of Twp Rd 480 for approximately 1 mile. Cost is \$230,000.
- Chip seal surfacing of Twp Rd 514 for approximately 3 miles. Cost is \$225,000.
- Oiling of 6 miles of road – locations to be determined. Cost is \$197,000.
- Bridge repairs:
 - o Design and construct culvert at WSW 3-51-16-W4. Cost is \$275,000.
 - o Design bridge at WNW 33-49-18-W4. Cost is \$80,000.
 - o Design culvert at WNW 2-47-14-W4. Cost is \$40,000

Special Projects

- Municipal sustainability plan initiatives
- Asset management plan
- Building energy audits and other solar energy initiatives
- Intermunicipal collaboration frameworks
- Regional waterline strategy
- Storm water management design and water capacity study for the Equity Industrial Park near Ryley
- Partnership with the University of Alberta regarding ecological sustainability in rural landscapes

Community Grants

- Cemetery and community hall funding
- Family and Community Support Services
- Support to local health foundations
- Recreation and library facilities and programming (shared with our urban neighbours)
- Operating and capital support to local organizations
- Various youth awards and scholarships

Bylaw 17 – 1047 Public Hearing

BEAVER COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

For the purpose of hearing arguments for and against a proposed amendment to Beaver County Land Use Bylaw 98-801.

Bylaw 17-1047 - Proposed Land Use Bylaw Amendments

Beaver County Council is considering an amendment to its Land Use Bylaw to include the use of recreational vehicles for temporary accommodation; the proposed amendments are as follows:

1. The existing definition for “**Recreational Vehicle**” will clearly state that RVs cannot be used as a permanent dwelling as they do not meet the minimum requirements for a dwelling in the Alberta Building Code.
2. A new land use will be added called “**Recreational Vehicle Use,**” defined as recreational vehicles intended to be temporarily occupied for longer than six (6) months but not for permanent use.
3. No development permit is required for recreational vehicles occupied for less than six (6) months for camping or recreational purposes.
4. Development permit is required for recreational vehicles temporarily occupied for more than six (6) months.
5. The chart below outlines where Recreational Vehicle Uses (RV Uses) are permitted and discretionary; development permits are required.

Agricultural District	Permitted
Country Residential District:	-
- Lots equal to or less than 2.8 ha (6.9 ac)	Discretionary
- Lots greater than 2.8 ha (6.9 ac)	Permitted

6. A maximum of two (2) permits for RV Uses may be issued per lot, where allowed.
7. The maximum length of time for RV Uses may be specified in the conditions of the development permit.
8. Notwithstanding all of the above, all occupied RVs for camping, recreational, or temporary accommodation shall comply with the following regulations:
 - a. Sewage and wastewater shall be disposed of properly or a stop order may be issued.
 - b. RVs shall be at least 3.05 m (10 ft.) away from any building or vegetation.
 - c. RVs shall not be affixed to a foundation or slab.
 - d. Safety Codes permit and engineered drawings are required for any RV modifications not approved by the Canadian Standards Association; these may include an attached canopy, deck, lean-to or any attached accessory building to the RV.

Council will hear arguments for and against the proposed LUB amendments at a public hearing scheduled for **11:00 am, Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at the Beaver County Service Centre in Ryley, Alberta.**

A copy of Bylaw 17-1047 may be obtained at the Beaver County Service Centre or on the County’s website at www.beaver.ab.ca. Written submissions may be provided to Beaver County Council during the public hearing, however it is requested that a copy of the written submission be delivered to the Service Centre (5120-50 Street, Ryley), attention the Chief Administrative Officer, no later than **4:30 pm, Wednesday May 10, 2017.**

If you submit comments regarding the bylaw in writing, the information you provide may be made public, subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Bob Beck, Chief Administrative Officer
Beaver County
Box 140
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2016 Audited Financial Statement

On April 24, 2017, Council accepted the 2016 audited financial statement as presented by MNP LLP. To view the statements, visit www.beaver.ab.ca/council/financials. Paper copies are also available at the Beaver County Service Centre.