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Why are my taxes increasing?

Tax increases happen for a variety of reasons, but mainly to continue a level of service council has deemed fitting for their ratepayers and local industry.

Together with the lessening of production in the oil and gas industry and legislative changes, a greater majority of the tax burden will be shifted to Agriculture and Residential sectors over the next couple years.

The Saskatchewan Growth Collation successfully lobbied the Saskatchewan Government to decrease the amount of taxes and fees that municipalities can charge to oil and gas companies. These changes are mandatory for all municipalities.

Currently, the RM charges nine times more for commercial taxes than agriculture and residential. Beginning in 2023 municipalities are capped at charging up to a maximum of 7.1 times more including the use of all tax tools.

The bottom line is that the amount of taxes charged to commercial will decrease, and agriculture, residential

and other sectors will increase to compensate.

To lessen the financial impact, the Council for the Rural Municipality of Hillsdale No. 440 will implement a portion of this increase this year and expect an increase again next year.

The North West Municipalities Association, implored the Saskatchewan Government to consider the magnitude of their decision to reduce tax rates for the oil and gas industry. Citing this action is detrimental to our municipality and the impact will be felt by surrounding municipalities as well.

Coupled with an inability to collect tax arrears from Oil Companies and monies not recoverable due to bankruptcies, this RM has had to write off \$2,287,960.91 in taxes to date. The further reduction in commercial revenue will only be recoverable by increasing tax rates to other property classes or a reduction in services.

Council is discussing ways to economically reduce expenses overall,

unfortunately this situation does not have an easy answer. We will be continuing to explore opportunities as they arise.

Please call, email or write to the Saskatchewan Government with your concerns to help them understand what impact their decision has.

Premier of Saskatchewan

Hon. Scott Moe
306-787-9433
premier@gov.sk.ca
226 Legislative Building
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Minister of Government Relations

Hon. Don McMorris
306-787-7326
minister.gr@gov.sk.ca
Room 306, 2405 Legislative Dr
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

SK Party MLA

Mr. Ryan Domotor
306-893-2660
domotor.mla@sasktel.net
Box 850
Maidstone, SK S0M 1M0

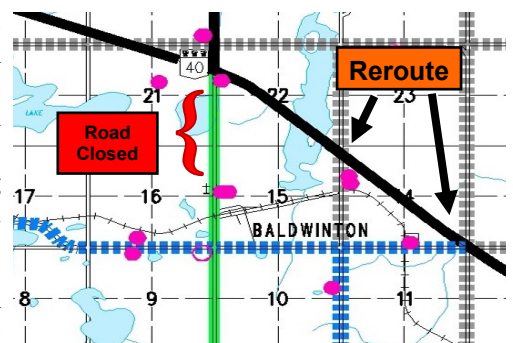
Don't Be Fooled by Appearances

Flooding has been seen on the Baldwinton grid off of Highway 40. This portion of road has been closed to traffic since April 2019. While some road top is showing the road is not stable.

The RM Council hired Wood PLC to conduct test holes and analyze the condition of the road structure. Wood PLC found crumbling asphalt, wet gravel base, wet clay and saturation. The shoulders of the roadway have eroded and there is a potential for sink holes to occur at any time.

By the time you are reading this newsletter, the road will have been made impassable by installing trenches across the road. This step was required as the barricades that are in place to keep the road closed and the travelling public safe continue to be moved regularly.

As stated in the report from Wood PLC, council agrees that due to conditions found and the potential for liability to the RM, this road will remain closed.



At this time reconstruction of this road is not in the budget as there is a workable detours.

GO SLOW in the ORANGE ZONE

There are many construction projects throughout Saskatchewan this year, please take care when heading out this summer. This year the RM is constructing 4 miles of road in Divisions 5 & 6.



Remember to reduce your speed to 60 km/hr or less around any construction equipment, tow trucks and emergency personnel.

Remember, a single grader is a working construction zone.

Please SLOW DOWN in the Orange Zone. Look for the amber flashing lights and reduce your speed.

As a reminder to anyone mending fences - please remove wire, posts, tools, etc. from the municipal ditches. Municipal equipment can be and has been damaged by items left behind. If we all do our part, expensive repair bills can be avoided.

With the reduction of oilfield traffic in the municipality, the level of service on some back roads may lessen. Maintaining to the previous level is not feasible with the number of miles of higher standard roads used by our farmers, ranchers and acreage owners. Please use caution when using backroads and trails and stick to the main roads when moving equipment and large vehicles.

RM440 Freemont Transfer Station

Located 5.5 miles East &
1 mile South of Neilburg

Wednesdays • 9am to 5pm
Saturdays • 9am to 1pm



Burning Permit Required

Burning Permits are required **ALL YEAR ROUND** and can be obtained from the Municipal Office during regular business hours by calling 306-823-4321.

You are also required to call the Control Burn Hotline at 1-866-404-4911

Obtaining a Burning Permit and Reporting your controlled burn may save you money. If the Control Burn Hotline has not been informed of your fire and 911 is called you will be **BILLED**. However, if your controlled burn does become uncontrolled and you call 911 to have emergency services dispatched your permit does not provide financial protection. Charges from protective or emergency services will be billed as per normal policy.

Road Allowances

Farmers please note that the grass on road allowances is necessary to preserve the road stability. Cultivating or spraying road allowances is strictly forbidden. Destroyed areas will need to be reseeded by the Municipality and all costs associated will be charged to the abutting landowner. Road allowances are a minimum of 66 feet in width, and many are 100-150 feet. Farmers who spray and cultivate the road allowances are trespassing.

Also, remember fencing must be within 0.5 meters of the owners property line.

Tax Payment Options

Options for paying your taxes are:

1. In person with **cash** or **cheque**
2. **Sending a cheque.** Mailed cheques must be received in office before December 31. Payments are not **receipted based on the post marked date.**
3. Through your bank via **e-transfer**. This may require the payment to be broken up depending on the limit per transaction set by your financial institution. Please include your information in the notes so the payment is applied to the correct property. *Send e-transfers to rm440@sasktel.net.*
4. **Credit card and debit card payments are now available with a fee per use.** Each transaction will garner a 3.25% processing fee payable at the time of transaction. *This device arrives mid July. The point of sale system costs the RM nothing.*

Once tax payments are processed a receipt will be given or mailed to you for your records.

As always taxes are due December 31, 2022. Tax discounts are no longer offered as one measure to generate revenue throughout the municipality.

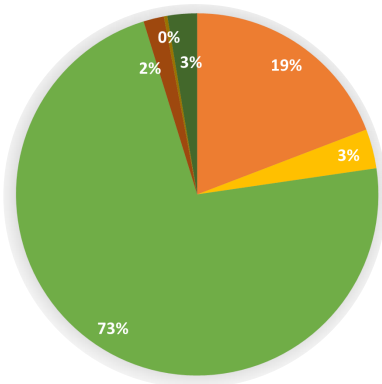
Do Not Litter

Dumping of garbage on road allowances, in road ditches and along unused road allowances is prohibited. This includes **ROCKS**. Help keep our municipality clean and tidy. All loads heading to the transfer site are to be tarped and secure.

Where do my tax dollars go?

The RM consists of 6 divisions; 11 townships; 396 sections; 1,584 quarters; 315 miles of roadways of varying standards from trails to pavement; and a \$5.4 million operating budget.

The RM of Hillsdale No. 440 financial statement is divided into 6 functional areas; General Government, Protective Services, Transportation Services, Environmental & Public Health, Planning & Development, and Recreation & Culture. As shown on the graph Transportation Services is our biggest expense with General Government coming in at a distant second.



73% Transportation Services includes expenses such as outside employee wages and benefits, contracted road maintenance and snow removal, costs associated with the RM shop such as insurance, utilities and repairs, costs associated with equipment such as insurance, repairs and maintenance, diesel, gravel, culvert, signs, etc.

19% General Government is comprised of all the costs of running the municipal office including assessment services, legal and audit services, memberships with SARM and APAS, website and postage, asset management, mapping, training, tax enforcement, computer hardware and software, council remuneration and wages and benefits for office staff.

3% Protective Services includes expenses for RCMP, fire & rescue and emergency management.

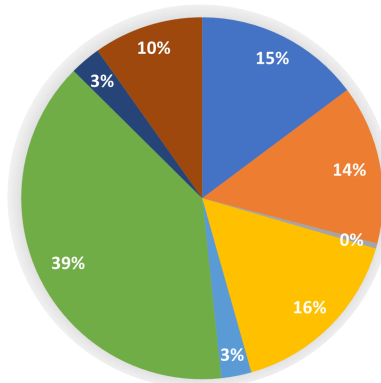
3% Recreation & Culture is all of the support we provide to recreation boards, the regional park and library.

2% Environmental & Public Health incorporates costs for running the Freemont Transfer Station, STARS donation, pest and weed control, and the four cemeteries.

0% Planning & Development is where you will find costs for administering the Official Community Plan and Zoning bylaw, veterinary clinic and municipal pastures.

That being said...did we tell you enough?

Municipalities also analyze the costs through the total of specific segment expenses. Amortization, Maintenance, Materials & Supplies, Wages & Benefits, Professional/Contractual Services, Allowance for Uncollectible, Interest, Utilities, and Grants & Contributions.



Taking the whole budget again and looking at it with these categories allows for another understanding.

39% Amortization accounts for the depreciation of the capital assets like infrastructure, equipment and buildings.

16% Maintenance, Materials &

Supplies is the category where you will find expenses like gravel, fuel, repairs to equipment and buildings, pest control supplies, grader and mower blades, office supplies and postage.

15% Wages & Benefits consist of salaries paid along with benefits given to our employees and council.

14% Professional/Contractual Services includes the contractors we use for various jobs throughout the RM such as repairs and maintenance, audit, general and liability insurance, and pest control to name a few. Payments made to a person or a company outside the municipal employ.

10% Allowance for Uncollectible is where council provides for writing off tax arrears and delinquent accounts.

3% Grants & Contributions budgets for dollars given to recreation boards, fire departments, cemeteries, STARS.

3% Interest category includes any and all bank fees or interest on loans.

0% Utilities categorizes the power, energy, water and telephone used in our various buildings and Baldwinton street lights.

This is what council must consider throughout the year and when planning for the future. With the decrease in oil & gas commercial taxes we are analyzing each area to decide if service standards can be lowered to save tax dollars. However, looking at that it is hard to take a step backwards in progress if we want to continue to be a thriving community.

Planning for our potential destiny is challenging if you would like to get involved the Municipal Election is November 9, 2022. Divisions 2, 4 & 6 will be open for election, 4 year terms.

Council & Staff

Municipal Staff are available weekdays during regular business hours and would be happy to help with any questions and concerns. Staff would appreciate not being contacted after office hours.

Municipal Staff

Janet Hollingshead-Leslie, CAO
Kathleen McGladdery, CAO in Training
Tracey Zweifel, Finance Officer
Karrie Blackbeard, Public Works Coordinator

Some of our councillors have employment or businesses they run on a day-to-day basis. These are not places they are prepared to give you their full attention. Please contact the Reeve or Councillors by phoning their listed number and leave a message with your topic, your contact information and a time to get hold of you. They will return your call as soon as possible. If you prefer to email please send it to rm440@sasktel.net at anytime.

Reeve

Glenn Goodfellow
306-823-4560

Division 1	Division 2	Division 3
Trevor McCrea 306-398-2912	Jerry Petovello 306-398-2895	Bernadette Poppleton 306-823-4530
Division 4	Division 5	Division 6
Vacant	Floyd Whitney 780-205-1463	Chip Chibri 306-823-4228

If you are unsure which councillor you should be talking with please contact the Municipal Office, 306-823-4321.

Pest Control

The RM of Hillsdale No. 440 has hired a new pest control officer to control rats and other invasive animals within the RM.

Rob Knoll
780-999-4833

Rob will be visiting yards, bin yards and vacant sites to ensure our rat population stays in control.

We wish to thank Glen McGladdery for his years of dedication to the RM of Hillsdale No. 440.



Dust Control

The RM has chosen to not offer dust control this year.

Graders will be working up current sites during this year as required. The left over product will provide some dust control, however it may not be ideal, we thank you for your understanding.

RM 440 Maps

We are pleased to announce that RM maps will now be done in house!

Generating maps in house allows for frequent updating and will increase speed of delivery.

2022 maps are now ready for purchase.

Municipal Maps are \$20.00 each plus GST.

Digital copies are available through iHunter.



Do I Need a Permit?

Planning a new development on your property? You may be required to submit a development permit to the Municipality. Please call the municipal office during the beginning stages of planning in order to determine which regulations are in place.

Permit Required

Building or expanding a house/major renovation, Garage, Shop or Farm Building, Accessory Building over 145 ft², Manufactured Home, Dugout, Operation of a business, Signs, etc.

Permit Not Required

Minor renovations/maintenance (shingles, painting, etc.), Decks under 3.3 ft in height, Fence under 6.6 ft high, Shelterbelts, etc.
providing setbacks are met

Development Permit Application forms are available on our website under the development tab. Please call the office with any questions 306-823-4321.

www.rmofhillsdale.com