



Council Notes April 28, 2020

Swalwell Truck/Train Incident Report March 9/10

Agenda Item 5.5.1; YouTube Livestream [30:14](#)

Protective Services provided Council with a report of the Train/Truck Incident that occurred March 9 and 10, 2020 in the hamlet of Swalwell, which lead to the evacuation of approximately 100 residents.

[Read the detailed report in the Council Package.](#)

Decision:

Council accepted the report as information.

Provincial Education Requisition Update

Agenda Item 6.1; YouTube Livestream: [40:07](#)

Due to COVID-19, the province has cancelled the increase in education requisitions intended for 2020, and have frozen education property taxes at 2019 levels. These announcements have a positive impact on Kneehill County's ratepayers compared to the original provincial budget, reducing the overall increase for Residential ratepayers from 6% to 2%, and the increase for Non-Residential ratepayers from 12% to 8%.

Decision:

Council received the update as information.

Provincial Announcements- Tax Cycle Impacts

Agenda Item 6.2; YouTube Livestream: [51:13](#)

The Alberta Government has announced several deadline extensions for assessment timelines due to COVID-19. In response to these extensions, Kneehill County will delay mailing out Tax/Assessment Notices until June 15, 2020. Tax payments are still due October 31, 2020. Please see the chart below for more information.

EVENT	NORMAL TIMELINE	COVID RESPONSE TIMELINE	KNEEHILL COUNTY RESPONSE
Notice of Assessment Date	No later than July 1	July 1 or 60 days from Notice of Assessment, whichever time is later	The Complaint Date will be indicated as 60 days from mailing (approx. Aug 24)
Deadline to send the Assessment Notice	No later than July 1 (normally we send out May 15)	No later than October 1	KC will delay the sending out of Tax/Assessment Notices until June 15th
Assessment Complaint deadlines	Usually within days of the receipt of the complaint	Extended to October 1	Regional Assessment Review Board handles these complaints and KC will forward as received to them for further action
2020 Tax Arrears List	March 31 (notice sent to owners August 31)	June 30 (notice sent to owners October 1)	We will meet the June 30 deadline
2019 Tax Arrears List	Deadline to pay was March 31, 2020	Deadline to pay is October 1, 2020	KC will hold a tax sale prior to December 31, 2020 if needed

Decision:

Council received the Provincial Announcements- Tax Cycle Impacts report as information.

Local Improvement Amendments

Agenda Item 6.3; YouTube Livestream: [56:30](#)

To apply the special benefitting tax levy for water service areas, a water riser bylaw was written detailing the roll numbers affected. When new rolls numbers are assigned due to subdivisions, these bylaws require amending to include the new roll number and to delete the old one.

Decision:

Council passed Bylaw 1811- Selkirk Water Service Area Project, Bylaw 1812- Gamble Water Service Area Project, and Bylaw 1813- Sunnyslope Pressure Water Service Area Project.

Water Service Area Tax Bylaw 1819

Agenda Item 6.4; YouTube Livestream: [1:02:42](#)

In 2006, a Water Service Area Tax was created to help fund the construction costs for water services to County residents. In 2020, this levy will contribute \$1,000,227 to the Water WSA Reserve which will ensure future funding of infrastructure to maintain, replace and create major system upgrades.

Decision:

Council passed Bylaw 1819, Water Services Area Special Tax.

Trochu Recreation Area Special Tax

Agenda Item 6.5; YouTube Livestream: [1:06:10](#)

Each year Council approves a levy to be charged against certain properties within a given area as a recreation tax. This tax is collected and forwarded to the Town of Trochu as payment at year end, funding 50% of the costs to operate their pool facility.

Decision:

Council passed Bylaw 1815, Trochu Recreation Special Area Tax.

Tax Rate Bylaw

Agenda Item 6.6; YouTube Livestream: [1:09:24](#)

While Kneehill County Council and staff have undertaken a number of cost-cutting measures to compensate for anticipated loss of revenues, provincial policies have created major challenges for the County in 2020. Under the new tax rate bylaw, which has been incorporated into Kneehill County's 2020 Operating Budget, the average hamlet home will see an increase of \$10 a year for municipal services and a further increase of \$5 for Provincial Education support, with the average acreage owner seeing an increase of \$25 per year for municipal services and a further \$12.50 for Provincial Education support. Non-residential gas producers will see an overall reduction in tax burden, while some commercial businesses and farmland will see a modest increase to support continued services levels and investment in the community.

Decision:

Council passed Bylaw 1814, 2020 Tax Rates.

Council and Committee Reports

Agenda Item 10.1; YouTube Livestream: [1:19:14](#)

Council and Committee Reports include Drumheller & District Solid Waste Management.

Decision:

Council received for information.

Closed Session

Agenda Item 12.0; YouTube Livestream: [1:41:20](#)

FOIP Section 25- Disclosure Harmful to Economic and other Interests of Public Body

NEXT Council Meeting: May 12, 2020 at 8:30 am in Council Chambers
1600, 2nd Street NE, Three Hills, Alberta.
Agendas are available at www.kneehillcounty.com