

Councillor's Report

October 22, 2018

Julia Butler

Well, at this point the votes are tallied and the results are in! You have a new council Grand Forks! Congratulations to all the successful candidates and I wish you well in your term for this city. Budget season will soon be upon you and as you settle into your new roles, I hope that you can support each other with the challenges of reworking the twenty-year capital plan, in wake of last year's flood. I also encourage you to find a way to incorporate your enthusiasm and new ideas into our OCP and start setting goals for your four years in office.

The Rec Commission met on October 11 to discuss the work plans and budget for the 2019 season. It was a long meeting as staff went into detail on each line item and provided many statistics. The draft facility assessments are completed and are being reviewed by staff, before being made available to the public. The commission recognised that results from the assessments could have a big impact on budgets moving forward. The status of the Learning Garden was also a concern of the commission and we have asked for a delegation or a report from the Ag Society for the November meeting. It is understood that the ultimate decision making power for this project, falls to the RDKB board, who holds the licence of occupation with the Ag Society.

The most important thing I wanted to report on is the requisition amounts that will affect people's taxes. The bylaw states that every five years there can be a request for a 25% increase in the requisition amount, that is shared between Rural Grand Forks (Area D) and Grand Forks. This year we will be asking for that increase on the aquatic centre budget, mostly to pay for asset maintenance costs. As well, there will be a standard 2% increase on admission fees.

The requisition amount for the programming budget is \$275 928 for Grand Forks and \$210 495 for Area D. The requisition amount for the Arena budget is \$350 578 for Grand Forks and \$164 978 for Area D. The requisition amount for the Aquatic Centre budget is \$406 508 for Grand Forks and \$310 108 for Area D. These figures include the assumption of the 25% increase in requisition amounts, up from last year's amounts of \$353 956 and \$270 019 respectively.

While doing research on this topic, I thought I would also include further information on the tax requisition, as it gives us a good idea of what our tax dollars are funding and how costs are shared with the RDKB.

Following is the breakdown of the RDKB's contribution to the City Fire Department:

The RDKB's contribution towards the City's portion of fire department costs is 50% of the fire chief, 30% for the deputy, 50% of City vehicle fuel costs, nothing for City vehicle maintenance, and nothing for repairs and maintenance on the City fire hall. Fire fighting personnel are shared 50:50 City and RD. With respect to the rural costs, the City pays 50% of the fuel costs, and nothing for the rural fire halls or rural vehicle maintenance.

This is what the \$ amounts were in 2017:

	City	RDKB
Personnel & equipment (non auto)	241,159	193,183
City vehicle costs	18,567	2,828
Rural vehicle costs	2,662	14,802
City fire hall	30,034	-
Rural fire halls	-	22,649
	292,422	233,462

Following is a list of all the services that are provided by the requisition, that we pay to the RDKB yearly.

The amount of \$ 1,424,516 is to be collected as the regional district levy and is due on or before August 1, 2018 is detailed as follows:

General Government Services	\$ 22,849
Regional Development Services	16,767
Feasibility Studies	4,242
Boundary Economic Development	39,807
Regionalized Solid Waste Management	114,103
Emergency Preparedness	21,505
9-1-1 Emergency Communications	38,101
Recreation Commission Grand Forks, Area 'D'	261,133
Grand Forks Arena	302,136
Grand Forks Curling Rink	15,115
Grand Forks Aquatic Centre	353,526
Animal Control	44,355
Mosquito Control	30,953
Grand Forks and District Public Library	136,225
West End Transit	23,675
Prior Year Adjustments	24

With a new representative at the RDKB board and a new council, perhaps we can take a closer look at these services to see if they are all still working well for us, at the best possible rate.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Butler