

Mayor's Report

What would you do? What would you do to reduce or maintain current levels of property tax?

Keep in mind that core municipal services are funded only to reflect the inflationary costs of doing business and necessary preventative maintenance and renewal. Those include water, waste water, roads and solid waste removal. Then you have services that residents come to expect in a town and that help to keep our town relevant. Those include everything from recreation facilities to bylaw services to libraries to social services (like FCSS) to planning and development to tourism to assisting service groups and even snow removal.

These are the considerations that Council has before it every year. In 2019 the revenue requirement was \$2,886,535. Seems like a lot of money, but that's the money that the Town anticipates it needs to cover all of the services listed above, plus wages, and setting aside money in reserves.

Now let's cut the budget by 1% that's only \$28,865, 5% budget cut adds up to \$144,326 and 10% working out \$288,653.

But wait! Before you even think about starting to cut, costs have gone up over the year, on average inflation in Canada is 2% a year. Then you have to consider property assessments, have they gone up from the year before? Or have they fallen? If they have fallen that means if we were to keep the Mill Rate the same as the year before we would bring in less revenue than the year before and would not have enough to fund the operations of the town. Your home's assessed value times the mill rate now determines tax collected. If assessments go up then we absolutely have more wiggle room to keep the mill rate as it is, or even lower it. Of course, that scenario could only occur if needs and services don't go up as well. We all know the current economy and that home values are on the decline for the 2nd year in a row. We will not have exact assessment numbers until the end of February but are anticipating about a 10% decline in assessments.

As you can see before we even start budget discussions costs have gone up by 2% and revenues have gone down by 10%.

So, where do we start? The low hanging fruit is cut jobs and cut wages. What if I told you we are already working with a dedicated but bare bones staff and any further cuts would burn out our staff and/or cut back the levels of services. That could mean, less ice time, parks mowed less frequently, water lines and road repairs delayed. Okay then let's cut council wages! As it stands right now councilors are paid around \$800 a month and the Mayor is paid around \$1200 a month. They have not taken raises and at times they have not claimed gas mileage or per diems.

Maybe we should put less money away in reserves? Where would that leave the town when it comes to infrastructure upgrades if we did not have money set aside? Well we would have to take out a debenture and then pay interest payments, those payments would then come out of taxation.

Year after year we as a council and administration are faced with these decisions. We live in this town too, we pay property taxes, we have personally been impacted by the hurting Alberta economy. We feel your frustrations and fight for a tight budget every year because we know the impacts those taxes have on you and our town. We have a finance committee made up of 3 councilors, the Mayor and 2 members of the public, one being a former banker and one being a retired person on a fixed income. That committee is always looking at options for savings and new revenue streams (that will not impact our already overstretched rate payers) As always, we do want to hear from you, if you have ideas for savings, or ideas for revenue opportunities, let us know! Nov 3 at 2pm at the Kozy Korner and the first Thursday of every month at 10 am at the town office or just give us a call.

Mayor Jennifer Handley

Interac e-Transfer Reminder

Don't forget – the Town of Nanton now accepts e-transfers for utility, tax and other payments! An e-transfer is an alternative to cash or cheque payment methods which is convenient, safe and simple to utilize.

To start sending money today follow these steps:

Log in to your financial institution's online or mobile banking and navigate to *Interac* e-Transfer Send Money.

Select the account you would like funds transferred from.

Add or select a contact and fill out the name and e-mail address or mobile phone number of the person you wish to send money to. In this case the name is Town of Nanton and the email address to utilize is billing@nanton.ca No phone number is required.

Type in the specified amount you are sending, along with a personalized message. Enter a security question and answer. For the security question and answer utilize your tax roll # or your utility account number. The Town will receive an email notification and deposit the funds to the appropriate account.

THANK YOU!!!!

The Town of Nanton would like to send out a big thank you to the Nanton Boosters, Nanton Promoters and the Nanton Community Bus Society for sponsoring Public Skating for the 2019/2020 season!! Visit www.nanton.ca to view the THRC calendar which includes our enhanced public skating hours and watch for special public skating events!!

November 2019

NANTON Notified

OFFICE CLOSURES AND HOLIDAY HOURS

November 11—CLOSED Remembrance Day. A ceremony of Remembrance will be held indoors only in the Nanton Community Centre starting at 10:45 a.m.

November 27—CLOSED from Noon to 2 PM, for Staff Meeting

December 24— CLOSED at Noon

December 25, 26—CLOSED, **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

January 1—CLOSED, **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

ANNUAL BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

Budget deliberations for Capital & Operating budgets for next year take place during the Fall and Winter. Contact the Town Office if you wish to make representations or submit written ideas to Council or the Finance Committee on the following matters:

TAX & UTILITIES POLICY

LOCAL SERVICES

CAPITAL PRIORITIES

CONTRIBUTION GRANTS

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

ASSETS AND RESERVES

**IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT NEXT YEAR'S TAXES OR BUDGET,
DON'T WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR TO LET US KNOW!**

NANTON



NANTON LIGHTS THE WAY

Nanton's Kick-off to the Christmas season takes place November 23, 2019 with festive shops open Saturday 10 am - 9 pm, the Distinctly Nanton Market at the Community Centre 10-4, and the Christmas Market at the Tom Hornecker Rec Centre from 10 am - 3 pm that day.

Our unique shops and boutiques will be open with seasonal goodies for you, special inventory and great deals to make your shopping list a snap to complete.

The Kids' Fun Corner will be open on Main Street for the little ones to play and craft with or without Mom and Dad's help. Mrs. Claus will make her rounds mid-afternoon to share some Christmas treats and answer all your questions about the man in red. The Charm Bracelet Scavenger Hunt will be back encouraging you to make the rounds to all the shops to collect your charms.

The Gingerbread House Contest is back, along with the Home and Business Decorating Contests, so stay tuned to Nanton Lights the Way Facebook page (Nanton Lights the Way 2019) along with the Nanton News and Regional for more information.

You are invited –

Town of Nanton Community Open House

On Sunday November 3rd at 2 p.m., Nanton Town Council and Administration will be hosting an informal open house at the Kosy Korner. Discussion and information regarding the 5-year utility plan for fees, 2020 Capital and Operational budgets (short presentation) along with progress updates from council committee chairs will be available. Come on down and meet your council & administration, provide your input, learn about what's happening in your community and have a coffee and doughnut on us.

Remember Business Licenses and Dog Licenses expire December 31, 2019. Watch for invoices the first week of December. Pay early and avoid penalties!

