



MARCH BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

2021 Budget approved; Improvements coming for Cummings Rd. Transfer Station; Dore River erosion protection service to be explored;

2021 Budget approved

The Regional District has approved the 2021 Operating Budget. Expenditures (operating and capital) for the Regional District in 2021 will total \$60.5 million. Of the \$60.5 million, \$20.1 million will be funded through property taxation, which is an increase of \$282,636 or 1.43% over 2020. Most of the other funding for the budget for 2021 is coming in the form of grants, user fees and use of reserve funds.

Significant 2021 budgeted expenditures provided by the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George include Solid Waste Management (\$25.1 million); 9-1-1 Emergency Response Services (\$9.4 million); Protective Services (\$7.5 million) and Recreation & Cultural Services (\$4.5 million).

Regional District taxes per \$100,000 of residential assessment decreased in all municipalities and electoral areas for 2021. In Prince George, the taxes decreased 3.4% to \$49.46 per \$100,000 residential assessment. In Mackenzie, taxes are down 3.1% to \$57.33 per \$100,000 residential assessment. Valemount will see a 3.3% decrease at \$257.41 per \$100,000 residential assessment. McBride will see decrease of 4.4% at \$381.51.

However, those decreases may not result in a decrease on the tax bill for many homeowners in the region. The average increase region-wide in property assessment was 6.34%, meaning that the overall amount homeowners are taxed on may have increased.

Improvements coming for Cummings Rd. Transfer Station

The Cummings Road Transfer Station will undergo a major upgrade this year. The upgrade will expand the site to provide better traffic flow, more recycling opportunities, and improved site safety for customers, waste/recycling haulers and onsite staff. As a result of the construction activity, the site will temporarily close beginning in May and is expected to re-open in October. The value of the project is \$1.67 million. The Regional District awarded the construction contract Twin Rivers Development Ltd.

Dore River erosion protection service to be explored

The Regional District will undertake work with residents along the Dore River near McBride to investigate potential options and funding considerations related to erosion protection for their properties. A 1.5 kilometre stretch along the Dore River (between Highway 16 and Museum Road) in Electoral Area H experienced significant erosion during the freshet events of 2020. The study will explore the feasibility to establish a new local taxable service for residents in the impacted area.

Community Grants

The Board approved the following requests for Community and Recreation Grants:

- \$7073 to the Nukko Environmental Lake Weed Society for weed harvesting program and equipment maintenance
- \$1027 to the Salmon Valley Community Association for insurance
- \$9000 to the Miworth Community Association for insurance and utilities
- \$24,000 to the Pineview Recreation Commission for operating expenses
- \$25,000 to the Hixon Volunteer Fire Department Society for fire apparatus upgrades and equipment
- \$15,000 to the Mackenzie Fire Fighters Association for equipment
- \$4500 to the Canoe Valley Community Association for operating expenses
- \$1417 to the McBride Farmers Institute for insurance
- \$5000 to the Ozalenka Alpine Club for cabin and trail maintenance
- \$2500 to the Robson Valley Beekeepers Association for program equipment, protective suits and gloves
- \$2500 to the Valemout Climbing Club for the development of business/financial plans, facility design and website

A grant of \$25,000 was also approved for the Northwest Invasive Plant Council, with equal contributions from all seven Electoral Areas.

For further information, please contact

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