



# Town of Onoway

## BUDGET NEWSLETTER

July 2022

### CONTACT INFO

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T0E 1V0

### Council Meetings

July 14, 2022

July 28, 2022

Meetings start at 9:30 A.M. and are held at the Town Office. Any date or time change will be posted at [www.onoway.ca](http://www.onoway.ca). Meetings are open to the public. If you would like to address Council, please forward your request through the Town Office by noon on the Monday prior to the week of the meeting.

### Feel free to contact Council with any comments or concerns!

#### MAYOR

**Len Kwasny**

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#### DEPUTY MAYOR

**Lisa Johnson**

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#### COUNCILLORS

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### MESSAGE FROM MAYOR LEN KWASNY

With summer stretching out in front of us, it is a good time to take a deep breath and enjoy the pleasures of our home and everything it has to offer. With promises of sunshine and holidays, we have a lot to look forward to.

Midway through 2022, I think we can be grateful for the many things this year has brought. But we must look at the challenges that Onoway and all municipalities are facing right now, the biggest being rising inflation rates. This challenge is made even more difficult because inflation affects not only governments but citizens and businesses.

With this in mind, Onoway council has taken a hard look at budget versus services to make sure we provide value to all taxpayers. Our budget for 2022 includes a tax increase to cover inflation that ensures services can be maintained at its current level. The increase is about \$4 per month for the average taxpayer. We believe that the Town of Onoway will continue to provide value for the amount that taxpayers invest in our community.

Having said that, council is also looking at ways to be more efficient, including collaborating with neighbouring municipalities to develop cost-saving strategies that will maintain a low tax rate increase for the future. Council also understands the importance of new development, and we will actively seek opportunities for our community.

I believe that good things lie ahead for Onoway, and I look forward to working with council to prepare the town for what comes next!



## DEVELOPING A LONG-TERM VISION FOR ONOWAY

Providing a high quality of life is the key business of municipalities. This requires all municipalities, including the Town of Onoway, to deliver hundreds of critical and quality of life services daily, supported by dedicated staff. The challenge of municipalities is to balance high-quality services and well-maintained capital assets with value for the fees and taxes paid by our residents and local businesses.

In our current situation, we face further challenges with emerging from a multi-year global pandemic into surging inflation. When evaluating the 2022 budget, Council was especially conscious of the financial situations facing our town, our local businesses, and our residents. We developed our 2022 budget with respect for residential and business taxpayers with consideration for municipal environmental factors, including inflation, service challenges, and economic pressure.

One of the goals for Onoway is to strive for immediate service improvements that will improve our service quality and communications, helping to build a greater connection between Council and the community. Council will develop best practices for road repair, but its goal is to plan beyond the short-term fixes to a medium and long-term tax strategy. Council will also focus on long-term planning for service improvements, organizational restructure, in-house skill development, and strategic planning.

As part of this year's budget planning, Council identified six priorities for the community that will help us focus our budget and tax decisions. Using these as our guiding priorities will help us provide value from this budget for everyone who lives, works, and visits Onoway.

### 1. Community Beautification

We will actively foster town beautification embracing the Town's history and pride in community.

### 2. Community Sustainability

We embrace community sustainability focusing on well maintained and planned infrastructure, effective financial stewardship and excellence in service delivery.

### 3. Connect Communities

We embrace connected communities by welcoming partnerships, fostering communication and pursuing healthy public engagement.

### 4. Economic Growth

We will pursue a healthy economy focusing on our potential in tourism, local business promotion and governance partnerships with business

### 5. Good Governance

We actively pursue and embrace good governance and integrity by being accountable, responsible, transparent, focusing on the overall good of the community.

### 6. Service Excellence

We proactively consider service delivery, focusing on doing the right things well, understanding core versus value-added services and communicating what we do.




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## MUNICIPAL TAX DOLLAR VALUE: A COMPARATIVE VIEW

When considering the value of your property taxes, it is important to review the context of what the Town of Onoway, along with other municipalities, provides for your investment in the community. As shown below, by paying \$108 per month, you receive a wide array of valuable services paid for by your tax dollars.

Average Residential Property in the Town of Onoway = \$175,000



\$175,000 = \$1,298 (\$108 per month)  
3.8% tax dollar increase = \$49 year, \$4 month

**What does \$108/month get you?**

**Municipal Services**

- Snow removal
- Fire safety
- Playgrounds
- Traffic safety
- Ball diamonds
- Safe roads
- Sidewalks
- Infrastructure maintenance
- Community events
- Recreation programming
- Family support
- Animal control
- Path/trails
- Hockey / skating rinks
- Counselling services
- Grass cutting
- Pest/weed control

**Compared to?**

Monthly Cable + Internet

or

Fancy Dinner for 2

or

Heating + Power Bill

or

Cell Phone Bill for 2

or

Monthly Insurance

or

Family Movie Night

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## 2022 BUDGET OVERVIEW

The **2022 Operating Budget** was passed with a **3.8% increase** in municipal tax dollars collected. In 2022, this tax dollar increase equates to **\$45,950 and it may need to increase in the future for the Town to sustain and improve their current service levels.** The 2022 Operating Budget increase is due, in part, to provincial and country-wide inflation and a return to pre-pandemic activities. Residents will see this increase, on average, as approximately \$4.00 a month - or \$49.00 annually. This increase will also allow Town Council to address six priorities/concerns of the community, while helping to create long-term sustainability for the Town of Onoway.

|                             | 2021        | 2022        | Annual Decrease (\$) |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Budgeted Operating Revenue  | \$3,766,930 | \$3,728,073 | \$38,857             |
| Budgeted Operating Expenses | \$3,766,930 | \$3,728,073 | \$38,857             |
| Municipal Taxation          | \$1,291,063 | \$1,337,013 | \$45,950 (3.8%)      |



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### PRE-AUTHORIZED TAX PAYMENT PLAN

If you wish to pay your municipal taxes in monthly installments, please contact the Town Office to enroll in the PAT Plan.

### PRE-AUTHORIZED UTILITY PAYMENTS

If you wish to pay utility bills through automatic withdrawal from your bank account, please contact the office to enroll.

### TAX PENALTY APPLICATION DATES

Sept. 1 10% Current Levy

Oct. 1 2% Current Levy

Nov. 1 2% Current Levy

Dec. 1 2% Current Levy

Jan. 1 15% All Outstanding Taxes

**Note:** Penalties do not apply to those enrolled in the preauthorized tax payment plan.

## TAXES DUE AUGUST 31, 2022

### TAX AND UTILITY PAYMENT OPTIONS

We have several options to pay taxes and utilities. These options include:

1. Pay online through your banking institution.
2. In person at the Town Office with cash, cheque or debit.
3. Place a cheque and your bill in the Town Office front door slot.
4. Pay by e-transfer to [info@onoway.ca](mailto:info@onoway.ca)
5. Mail payment to Town of Onoway, Box 540, Onoway, AB T0E 1V0

### MAILING ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

If your mailing address is incorrect or if you will be moving soon, please advise Alberta Land Titles who informs the Town Office. By provincial law, the Town of Onoway & Alberta Land Titles must use the mailing address you list on your Title. Please note that failure to receive a tax notice is not sufficient reason for late payment and penalties will be applied.

### ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

The assessment value amount that is on your notice is an estimate of the market value of your property as of July 2022. The assessment complaint process is governed by the Municipal Government Act.

If you have concerns regarding the assessed value of your property, you should contact our assessor to try to resolve the issue. The primary objective is to give the complainant and the assessor the maximum opportunity to come to an agreement and so avoid an official complaint, and its costs.

On the back of your tax notice, you will find more information, including the contact information for our assessor. Please keep in mind that the assessor does not set the Town tax rates and therefore cannot answer questions about property taxation. Nor can they address questions about Town services, etc.

For tax rate questions, or questions about services, or for general inquiries, please contact our office.



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