



**TOWN OF DIDSBURY AGENDA**  
**Regular Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 6:00 pm**  
**Council Chambers 1606 14 Street**

**Pages**

<b>1.</b>	<b><u>CALL TO ORDER</u></b>	
<b>2.</b>	<b><u>ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</u></b>	
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**9. CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION**

- Town of Taber – AUC Increasing Utility Fees
- Town of Fox Creek – AUC Increasing Utility Fees
- National Police Federation
- AMWWP Grant Application Update
- EMS 10-point Plan Update: May 2022

**10. COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS****11. QUESTION PERIOD****12. CLOSED MEETING**

**12.1. Organizational Structure Update - Division 2, Section 24 of the FOIP**

**12.2. Intergovernmental Relations - Division 2, Section 21 of the FOIP Act**

**13. RECONVENE****14. ADJOURNMENT**



## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.*

*Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2022  
SUBJECT: Didsbury and District Historical Society  
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services

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### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The Didsbury and District Historical Society requested to speak with Council on the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee celebrations at the Didsbury Museum June 4 and 5, 2022.

### DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

The Museum is excited about this upcoming event that will highlight the partnership between Communities in Bloom, Didsbury and District Historical Society, Didsbury Municipal Library, the Mountain View Arts Society, and the Town of Didsbury's Community Garage Sale.

### ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

4. Healthy Active Living

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council thank the Didsbury and District Historical Society for attending the Council meeting and accept their presentation on the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Celebration as information.

# Didsbury Museum

2110 - 21 Avenue, Didsbury Alberta



## Celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee

Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be celebrated throughout the year, across the country and, thanks to funding from [Canadian Heritage](#), right here in the town of Didsbury, Alberta!

The Didsbury and District Historical Society is planning free family activities to honour Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, to help mark the 70th anniversary of the reign of Her Majesty The Queen as Queen of Canada.

### Communities in Bloom

We begin the year partnering with the [Town of Didsbury](#) as they participate in the Communities in Bloom program. This program fosters community strength, involvement, nurtures environmental sustainability, enhances green spaces and heritage conservation. It also encourages participation from all ages and walks of life.

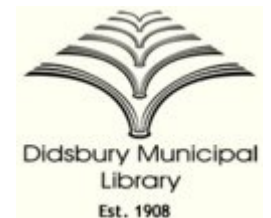
With 2022 being named the "Year of the Garden", we will be providing flower seeds in red, white, and blue - flowers such as white orchids, bachelor buttons, English daisies, geraniums, stephanotis, and carnations, as well as Lily-of-the-Valley, the Queen's favourite, stemming from its inclusion in her coronation bouquet. Our custom designed seed packets can be found in various stores throughout Didsbury this spring.



### Jubilee Partner, Didsbury Municipal Library

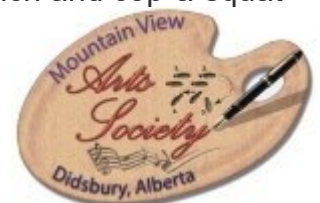
Did you know that what is now the Bell Tower Room and Chapel in the Museum was also the first free public library in Alberta? It was opened on these premises in 1908. The Museum and the Library have a long-standing partnership and will be celebrating the Queen's Jubilee together!

From 11 am to 4 pm on Saturday, June 4th, visitors will stroll our beautiful downtown, winding up at "Moose Fence Park" for a circuit of games hosted by the [Didsbury Municipal Library](#). Activities in the park will include miniature golf, bocce ball, some carnival games, maybe horseshoes, chess and checkers, and a floral craft (also celebrating Communities in Bloom). And no Jubilee would be complete without a rousing game of croquet!



Additionally, there will be picnic areas from 11 am to 4 pm, so pack a picnic lunch and cop-a-squat on one of the red gingham mats.

The [Mountain View Arts Society](#) is pleased to partner with the Library and Museum, and have two tintamareks perfect for the event: one of the Queen and her Corgis, and one of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, William and Catherine. Kids and parents love posing behind these cut-out panels, and taking home memorable photo souvenirs. Remember to bring your camera!





## Community Wide Garage Sale

Also on Saturday, June 4th, the Museum is joining Didsburians in the annual Community Wide Garage Sale. Families throughout Didsbury will be offering items in their yards, and the Museum just couldn't let all that fun go by without being a part of it! Watch for the map closer to the date - you might just find the treasure you've been looking for!

A special treat for garage sale shoppers will be the Museum's Outdoor Garden Train, running courtesy of the [Mountain View Model Railroad Club](#). The new Outdoor Garden Train was launched during Alberta Culture Days in 2020. Located on the east side of the Museum, the Garden Railroad operates year-round (stormy weather notwithstanding). There's a bench perfectly situated, and you can just watch the trains go around and 'round.



The folks with the Railroad Club are happy to show visitors the Outdoor Garden Train in operation. Talk to club members about the building of the original railroad and share in the way of life that still celebrates our country's heritage and history.

## Sunday Afternoon Tea

Our weekend celebrations conclude on Sunday, June 5th with a very prestigious Afternoon Tea at the Museum, a Provincial Historic Resource. The Historical Society is well-known for its afternoon socials, and 2022 will see a return to the popular social gatherings sorely missed in the past two years.

In respect to gathering capacities, we will be offering three sittings, and taking reservations. The Museum front yard is always quite lovely in June, and the commemorative benches and picnic tables will easily accommodate our guests.

Please call 403-335-9295 to book your sitting. Hours available:

- 12 - 1 pm
- 1 - 2 pm
- 2 - 3 pm

One of Didsbury's finest chefs will provide the FREE catered menu for the Afternoon Tea. The dishes from [Prairie Whistle Food Co.](#) include cucumber sandwiches, egg and cress sandwiches, and smoked salmon tea sandwiches, scones with cream, gourmet jellies and Three Berry Jam, and seasonal fresh fruit cup.



We are very pleased to have [Weatherby's Wreaths](#) provide the beautiful decor for our Jubilee Tea. Lovely floral arrangements will honour our Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

## Our Royal Exhibits

The weekend gives the Didsbury and District Historical Society an unique opportunity to showcase our own facilities.

Our Signature Exhibits include over 10,000 artifacts organized in 16 rooms! We have a lovely exhibit of the Royal Family and will be enhancing and expanding it in honour of Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee, along with paying recognition to our "sister city" in Didsbury, Manchester, England.

We are very proud to be able to offer a respectful and educational program to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, and send sincere appreciation to Canadian Heritage.



Over 200 Didsburians painted their own moose during Didsbury's Canada 150 celebrations in 2017. They now hang on "Moose Fence Park" immediately west of the Didsbury Museum.



Keep your eye out for Complimentary Flower Seeds at local businesses and help beautify the town as part of our Jubilee celebrations.



Saturday, June 4 from 11 am to 3 pm



## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.*

*Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2022  
SUBJECT: April 26, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services

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### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The Minutes of the April 26, 2022 Regular Council Meeting are being presented to Council for their review and approval.

### DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

Council can adopt the Minutes as presented or amended.

### ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

2. An Informed & Engaged Community

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council move to adopt the April 26, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented.



**Minutes of the Town of Didsbury  
Regular Council Meeting  
Held in Council Chambers at 1606 14 Street  
April 26, 2022, 6:00 pm  
Council Chambers 1606 14 Street**

Council Members Present Mayor Rhonda Hunter  
Deputy Mayor Curt Engel  
Councillor John Baswick  
Councillor Joyce McCoy  
Councillor Dorothy Moore  
Councillor Ethan Williams  
Councillor Bill Windsor

Administration Present Chief Administrative Officer, Ethan Gerner  
ACAO/Chief Financial Officer, Amanda Riley  
Director of Community Services, Nicole Aasen  
Director of Engineering & Infrastructure, Craig Fox  
Economic Development Officer, Alexandra Ross  
Manager of Legislative Services/Recording Officer, Luana Smith

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Hunter Called the Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Add: 7.6 RCMP Retroactive Pay

Change the order of Closed Meeting to accommodate delegations

**Res. 244-22**

MOVED by Councillor Moore

To adopt the Agenda as amended.

**Motion Carried**

**3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**4.1 April 11, 2022 Special Council Meeting Minutes**

**Res. 245-22**

MOVED by Councillor Baswick

To adopt the April 11, 2022 Special Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

**Motion Carried**

**4.2 April 12, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

**Res. 246-22**

MOVED by Councillor Baswick

To adopt the April 12, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as amended.

**Motion Carried**

*Councillor McCoy joined the meeting via Zoom Meetings at 6:06 p.m.*

**5. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

6. **BYLAWS & POLICIES**

6.1 **Tax Rate Bylaw 2022-08 (1st Reading)**

**Res. 247-22**

MOVED by Councillor Moore

That Council grant first reading to Tax Rate Bylaw 2022-08 to establish the rates and penalties for the 2022 Taxation Year.

**Motion Carried**

7. **BUSINESS**

7.1 **Reserve Bid for Tax Sale Properties**

**Res. 248-22**

MOVED by Councillor Windsor

To set the reserve bids for the following properties as follows:

- Roll # 218000 at \$155,800;
- Roll # 61000 at \$216,520;
- Roll # 101001 at \$172,340; and

That the terms and conditions of the sale be:

- Payment by cash or certified cheque;
- 5% non-refundable deposit received by the Town on the date of the auction;
- Balance to be received by the Town within 15 business days after the auction.

**Motion Carried**

7.2 **2022 Capital Budget**

**Res. 249-22**

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Engel

To approve the 2022 Capital Budget as amended.

**Motion Carried**

7.3 **Setting a date for next Operating Budget Meeting**

**Res. 250-22**

MOVED by Councillor Williams

That Council set May 2, 2022 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. for the next Operating Budget Meeting.

**Motion Carried**

**Res. 251-22**

MOVED by Councillor Windsor

To direct Administration to bring back a report on the cost of the Operating Budget Meetings to date after the conclusion of the budget meetings.

**Motion Carried**

7.4 **Central Alberta Mayors and Reeves Caucus**

**Res. 252-22**

MOVED by Councillor Baswick

That Council endorse Mayor Hunter's membership in the Central Alberta Mayors and Reeves Caucus and that this appointment be added to the Committees for Mayoral Appointment on the Council 2021/22 Council Assignment list.

**Motion Carried**

**7.5 Council Absences**

**Res. 253-22**

MOVED by Councillor Windsor

That Council refer Policy COUN 004 Council Remuneration to the Policy & Governance Committee for a review and return a recommendation to Council on or before June 14, 2022.

**Motion Carried**

**7.6 RCMP Retroactive Pay**

**Res. 254-22**

MOVED by Councillor Williams

That Council accept the update as information regarding the advocacy efforts of Alberta Municipalities and Federation of Canadian Municipalities to relieve/remove the responsibilities for RCMP retroactive pay for municipalities.

**Motion Carried**

**8. REPORTS**

**8.1 CAO Report**

**Res. 255-22**

MOVED by Councillor Baswick

To accept the CAO Report for April 26, 2022 as information.

**Motion Carried**

**8.2 Council Reports**

**Res. 256-22**

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Engel

To accept the Council Reports for April 26, 2022 as information.

**Motion Carried**

**9. CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION**

- The Origins Project
- Bowden Daze Parade Invite

**Res. 257-22**

MOVED by Councillor Moore

To accept the presented correspondence items as information, and that Mayor Hunter send a response to the Bowden Daze Parade.

**Motion Carried**

**10. COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

- Economic Development Officer First Quarter Report and new promotional brochure
- Amendment of 2022 Capital Budget - focusing on 21st Street
- Extensive CAO Report
- Central Alberta Mayors and Reeves Caucus appointment
- Pothole information being put on website
- Setting Operating Budget Meeting date

**11. QUESTION PERIOD**

**12. CLOSED MEETING**

**Res. 258-22**

MOVED by Councillor Windsor

To go into Closed Meeting at 7:25 p.m.

**Motion Carried**

**12.1 Shantz Village - Sections 16 and 25 of the FOIP Act**

**12.2 Land Issue - Section 16 of the FOIP Act**

**12.3 Mayor's Update - Section 24 of the FOIP Act**

**13. RECONVENE**

**Res. 259-22**

MOVED by Councillor Moore

To return to Open Meeting at 9:27 p.m.

**Motion Carried**

**Res. 260-22**

MOVED by Councillor Moore

To approve the Shantz Village response as discussed.

**Motion Carried**

**Res. 261-22**

MOVED by Councillor Windsor

That the Mayor respond on behalf of Council to the Developer's presentation.

**Motion Carried**

**Res. 262-22**

MOVED by Councillor McCoy

That Council request to be updated monthly by the Didsbury RCMP Detachment and Municipal Enforcement on response to and action on calls relative to nuisance behaviors in the downtown core.

**Motion Carried**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**Res. 263-22**

MOVED by Councillor Moore

To adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of April 26, 2022 at 9:31 p.m.

**Motion Carried**

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Mayor - Rhonda Hunter

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Chief Administrative Officer- Ethan Gorner





## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.*

*Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2022  
SUBJECT: Adoption of May 2, 2022 Operating Budget Meeting Minutes  
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services

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### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The Minutes of the May 2, 2022 Operating Budget Meeting are being presented to Council for their review and approval.

### DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

Council can adopt the Minutes as presented or amended.

### ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

4. Healthy Active Living

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the May 2, 2022 Operating Budget Meeting Minutes as presented.





**Minutes of the Town of Didsbury  
Operating Budget Meeting  
May 2, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.  
Held in Council Chambers at 1606 14 Street**

Council Members Present    Mayor Rhonda Hunter  
   Deputy Mayor Curt Engel  
   Councillor John Baswick  
   Councillor Joyce McCoy  
   Councillor Dorothy Moore  
   Councillor Ethan Williams  
   Councillor Bill Windsor

Administration Present    Chief Administrative Officer, Ethan Gerner  
   ACAO/Chief Financial Officer, Amanda Riley  
   Director of Community Services, Nicole Aasen  
   Director of Engineering & Infrastructure, Craig Fox  
   Economic Development Officer/Strategic Operations Coordinator, Alexa Ross  
   Municipal Intern-Finance, Kelsey Hawkins  
   Manager of Legislative Services/Recording Officer, Luana Smith

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Hunter Called the Meeting to Order at 4:02 p.m.

**2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**Res. 264-22**

MOVED by Councillor Baswick  
To adopt the Agenda as presented.

**Motion Carried**

*Council took a recess at 5:49 p.m. and returned at 6:01 p.m.*

**3. BUSINESS**

**Res. 265-22**

MOVED by Councillor Windsor  
To approve the 2022 Operating Budget with total operating revenue from taxes at \$4,932,598.

**Motion Carried**

**4. CLOSED MEETING**

**Res. 266-22**

MOVED by Councillor Moore  
To go into Closed Meeting at 7:43 p.m.

**Motion Carried**

**5. RECONVENE**

**Res. 267-22**

MOVED by Councillor Baswick  
To return to Open Meeting at 7:59 p.m.

**Motion Carried**

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Res. 268-22**

MOVED by Councillor Windsor

To adjourn the Operating Budget Meeting of May 2, 2022 at 8:00 p.m.

**Motion Carried**

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Mayor - Rhonda Hunter

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Chief Administrative Officer- Ethan Gerner



## PUBLIC HEARING

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2022  
SUBJECT: Shantz Development Proposal  
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services

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### OVERVIEW

This Public Hearing is being held for Council to consider this proposal, and all relevant information and comments from the public and affected parties related thereto.

Mayor Hunter will call the Public Hearing to order and will outline the proceedings to consider the following:

- Bylaw 2022-05 Municipal Development Plan Amendment
- Bylaw 2022-06 Shantz Village Area Structure Plan Amendment
- Bylaw 2022-07 Land Use Bylaw Amendment; and
- Disposal of Municipal Reserve

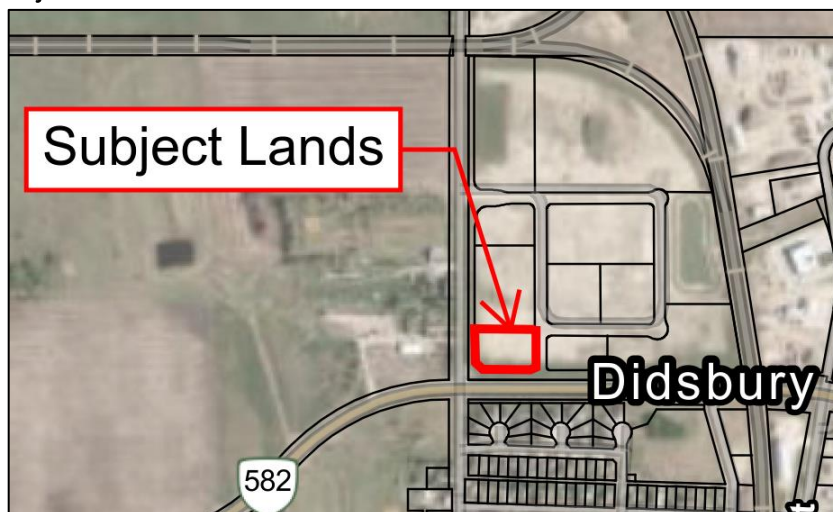
These were considered at the Council Meeting of April 12, 2022 and the Public Hearing was set for May 10, 2022. For the past month, notices of the Public Hearing were posted on the Town of Didsbury website, the Albertan newspaper and through the Town's social media platforms. Deadline to submit comments was Friday, May 6, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.. The responses received are attached.

Didsbury Planning will introduce the proposal.

### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL

The applicant has expressed a desire to the Town to create a new commercial development on the subject lands as a continuation of the existing uses on the lands to the immediate north, within the area known as Shantz Village. Refer to Figure 1 for a general location of the subject lands.

Figure 1: Location of Subject Lands





## PUBLIC HEARING

While the focus of the application is on redesignating the subject lands in the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) Bylaw 2019-04 to accommodate the commercial uses, the role of the LUB is to provide the regulatory framework necessary to implement the direction provided through the higher-level policy plans. To proceed with the development proposal, amendments to the statutory planning documents are necessary to ensure the existing plans are aligned. The application review highlighted the need to address the alignment with both the Shantz Village Area Structure Plan (ASP) Bylaw 2016-04 and the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) Bylaw 2012-09.

The series of amendments outlined identify the necessary changes to the MDP, the ASP, and the LUB to accommodate the proposed development. The considerations also explore the need to address the disposal of the existing Municipal Reserve on Lot 7 MR as part of the future development opportunities on the subject lands.

### DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

#### **OVERVIEW**

The applicant has expressed their interest to pursue further commercial development on the subject lands within Shantz Village, contributing to the existing commercial development in place to the immediate north.

To achieve their development intent, the immediately identified need was to redesignate the land from its current R2-General Residential use to the C1-General Commercial District. When considering any development decision, the initial question considers the consistency of the proposal with the LUB. Given the need for the redesignation, the decision-making process must expand to evaluate the merits of the proposed redesignation with the other planning documents in place.

#### **CONSIDERATIONS**

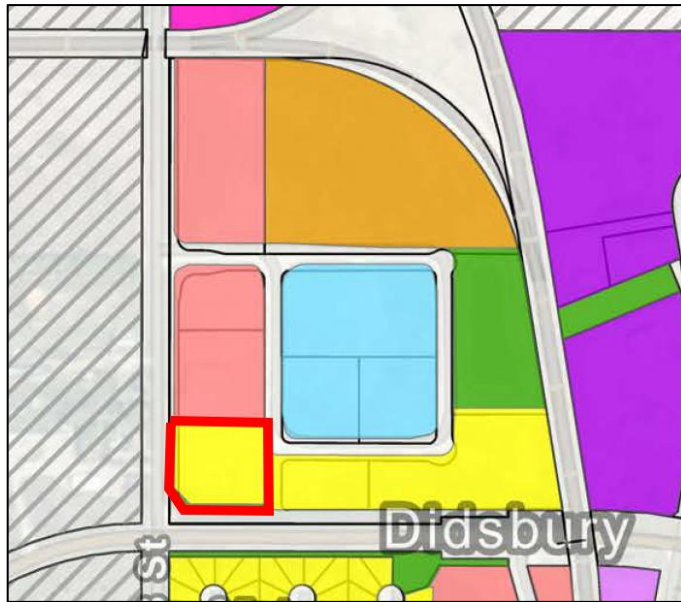
##### **Existing Context**

The application was considered relative to the adjacent land uses and development context. The southern and western boundary are aligned with the Highway 582 and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street corridors respectively. The lands to the immediate north are commercial, with a grocery store and a mix of commercial retail uses. The remaining lands within the Shantz Village are vacant.

The LUB designates the subject lands as R2-General Residential, along with the lands directly adjacent its eastern boundary. The original intent of the Shantz Village plan identified a strip of residential lands across the southern boundary along the Highway 582 corridor. Given the nature and location of the initial development within the Shantz Village (the grocery store and commercial retail), there is a natural transition, extending commercial uses to the south. Refer to Figure 2, which illustrates the subject lands and the existing commercial areas to the north as they are currently designated within the LUB.

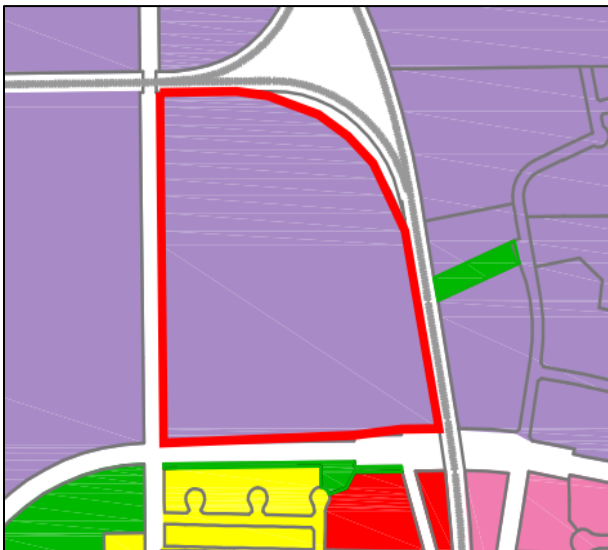
## PUBLIC HEARING

Figure 2: Existing Land Use Context

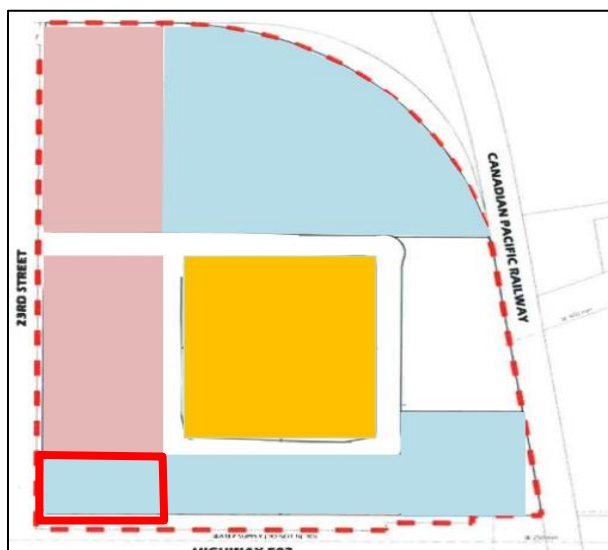


As discussed, the proposed LUB redesignation requires considering the alignment of the higher-order statutory planning documents (the MDP and the ASP). The proposed development aligns with the general intent and direction of both documents, however the Future Land Use concepts within each of the documents do not directly support commercial development, prompting the inclusion of the proposed amendments as part of the overall consideration. Refer to Figure 3, which illustrates the current land use considerations in each of the documents. In the MDP the subject lands fall within the Industrial policy area and in the ASP they are within the Residential policy area.

Figure 3: Future Land Use Concept Within the MDP and ASP  
*Municipal Development Plan*



*Area Structure Plan*





## PUBLIC HEARING

### Supply of Residential Lands

The availability of residential lands in the Town was considered based on the request to shift the subject lands from residential to commercial and removing it from the potential residential supply. While an important consideration to broader residential opportunities in the Town, the scale and location of the subject lands, combined with the proximity to existing commercial development and major transportation corridors, redesignating the lands to commercial use will not have a considerable impact on the residential land supply, nor create any significant impacts on potential future residential uses on adjacent lands.

### Access

Future development on the subject lands has identified a secondary access to 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. The applicant has worked with Alberta Transportation to review the existing Traffic Impact Assessment and gain their approval for the location of the secondary access point. Given there is a single access point onto 23<sup>rd</sup> Street that is intended to accommodate the entire Shantz development, the second access can alleviate future traffic at the existing intersection, provided Alberta Transportation confirms the access relative to the distance from the Highway 582 intersection. While the access point does not directly impact the redesignation, given the subject lands have an internal access point. However, it needs to be considered and evaluated relative to policy within the ASP.

### SUMMARY

While the applicant is requesting a change in the land use from the existing planning documents, the intent to expand commercial uses in the area fits with the general direction of the broader policy within the MDP and ASP.

The adoption of the ASP signified the importance of promoting a mixed-use environment in the Shantz neighbourhood. With the additional residential lands identified in the ASP and the existing commercial development that has been either planned or built along 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, the extension of commercial uses into the subject lands represents a logical extension of commercial development.

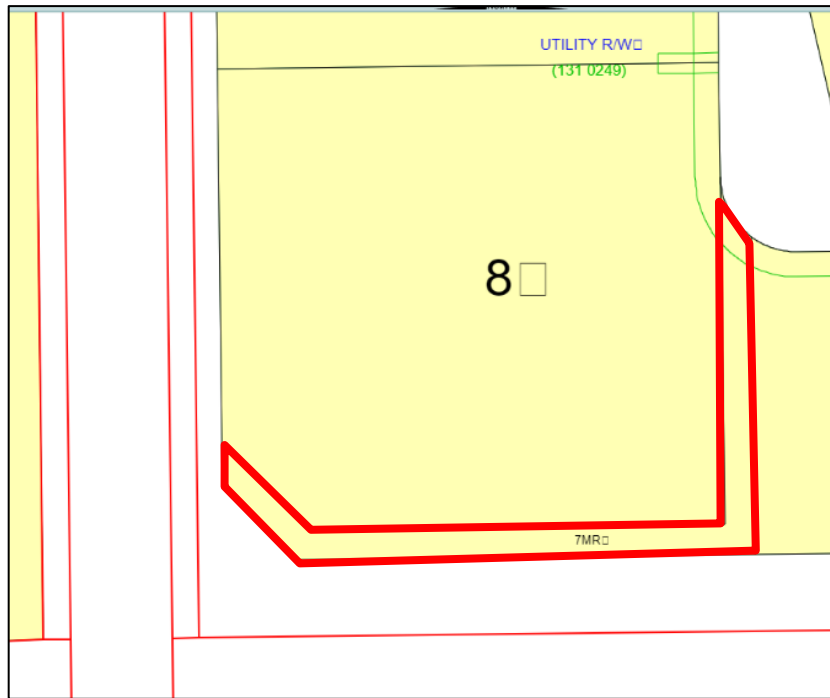
The proposed amendment to the MDP is simply to acknowledge the adoption of the Shantz Village ASP and apply the “Mixed-Use Lands” future land use category onto the MDP map, ensuring alignment with the ASP. This is merely addressing an administrative oversight that should have addressed the MDP map at the time of adopting the ASP and does not change any of the overall direction or intent of the goals, objectives, or policies of the MDP.

The subject lands contain a Municipal Reserve (MR) parcel along the southern and eastern boundary. This was initially identified for a trail connection as part of the initial ASP. However, the lands along the southern boundary are within the long-term plans for widening Highway 582 and the Town ultimately built the trail along the northern and western boundary, rendering the current MR irrelevant to the Town and the process to consider these amendments will include the disposal of the existing MR. Refer to Figure 4 for an illustration of the current location of Lot 7 MR, outlined in red.



## PUBLIC HEARING

Figure 4: Current Location of Lot 7 MR on the Subject Lands



### ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

#### 1. Economic Prosperity

### ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING

When Council feels they have received sufficient information to move forward, they may adjourn the Public Hearing.



Lee-Ann Gaudette &lt;lgaudette@didsbury.ca&gt;

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## R02749AB – TC Energy Referral Response

1 message

**TC Energy** <tcenergy@bapg.ca>

Thu, Apr 28, 2022 at 3:55 PM

To: Lee-Ann Gaudette &lt;lgaudette@didsbury.ca&gt;

Cc: TC Energy &lt;tcenergy@bapg.ca&gt;

Hello,

Thank you for sending B&A Planning Group notice of this project. B&A is the land use planning consultant for TC Energy (TC) in Western Canada. On behalf of TC, we work with municipalities and stakeholders regarding land use and development surrounding their pipeline infrastructure to ensure that it occurs in a safe and successful manner. We have reviewed the information provided and have determined that the subject area does not fall within the pipeline assessment area that TC is required to monitor as per Canada Energy Regulator (CER) standards. Therefore, **TC has no comments or concerns with the proposal.**

We appreciate you sending this referral and look forward to receiving additional referrals for policy, land use, subdivision, and development activities in proximity to TC's pipelines and facilities. To assist you in identifying development applications that TC should be referred, we have developed an online map that demonstrates TC Energy's assessment areas. Please click on the link below, sign in, and search your municipality to determine the assessment area within your municipal boundary:

**[Click here](#) to see the TC Energy assessment area in your municipality**

**Username:** TC\_Viewer**Password:** referrals1

For information, guidelines, best practices, and key contacts for development adjacent to TC Energy pipelines, please visit the [TC Energy Website on Safe Development](#). Also please continue to forward all planning and development applications within the assessment area to [tcenergy@bapg.ca](mailto:tcenergy@bapg.ca) for our review and comment.

Thank you,



### TC Energy Referrals

AB | 403.692.4531

BC, SK, MB | 403.692.4358





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**B&A Planning Group** | Planning • Strategy • Design • Engagement  
600, 215 – 9th Avenue SW | Calgary, AB T2P 1K3

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**From:** Lee-Ann Gaudette <[lgaudette@didsbury.ca](mailto:lgaudette@didsbury.ca)>

**Sent:** April 25, 2022 2:31 PM

**To:** [setbackreferrals@aer.ca](mailto:setbackreferrals@aer.ca); [transdevelopmentreddeer@gov.ab.ca](mailto:transdevelopmentreddeer@gov.ab.ca); [aep.oiblands@gov.ab.ca](mailto:aep.oiblands@gov.ab.ca); [waterapprovals.reddeer@gov.ab.ca](mailto:waterapprovals.reddeer@gov.ab.ca); [historical.lup@gov.ab.ca](mailto:historical.lup@gov.ab.ca); [3rdpartyrequests@altalink.ca](mailto:3rdpartyrequests@altalink.ca); [isabel.solis@atcopipelines.com](mailto:isabel.solis@atcopipelines.com); [division.office@cesd73.ca](mailto:division.office@cesd73.ca); [malcolm.nevers@canadapost.ca](mailto:malcolm.nevers@canadapost.ca); [wendy.bauer@canadapost.ca](mailto:wendy.bauer@canadapost.ca); [cyrus\\_njung@cpr.ca](mailto:cyrus_njung@cpr.ca); [calgaryzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca](mailto:calgaryzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca); [innisfail\\_area@equs.ca](mailto:innisfail_area@equs.ca); [landserv@fortisalberta.com](mailto:landserv@fortisalberta.com); [info@foothillsgas.ca](mailto:info@foothillsgas.ca); PlanDev <[plandev@mvcountry.com](mailto:plandev@mvcountry.com)>; [kdidsburyservices@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:kdidsburyservices@rcmp-grc.gc.ca); [circulations@telus.com](mailto:circulations@telus.com); TC Energy <[tcenergy@bapg.ca](mailto:tcenergy@bapg.ca)>; Ethan Gorner <[egorner@didsbury.ca](mailto:egorner@didsbury.ca)>; Amanda Riley <[ariley@didsbury.ca](mailto:ariley@didsbury.ca)>; Nicole Aasen <[naasen@didsbury.ca](mailto:naasen@didsbury.ca)>; Alexandra Ross <[aross@didsbury.ca](mailto:aross@didsbury.ca)>; Curtis Mousseau <[cmousseau@didsbury.ca](mailto:cmousseau@didsbury.ca)>; Meg Phillips <[meg\\_phillips@didsbury.ca](mailto:meg_phillips@didsbury.ca)>; Craig Fox <[cfox@didsbury.ca](mailto:cfox@didsbury.ca)>

**Subject:** Referrals: Public Hearing Notice May 10, 2022

Please see the attached correspondence and supporting documents.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards



**Lee-Ann Gaudette**

Development Officer, Planning & Development

Town of Didsbury

Office: 403-335-7732

[www.didsbury.ca](http://www.didsbury.ca)





Lee-Ann Gaudette &lt;lgaudette@didsbury.ca&gt;

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**Referrals: Public Hearing Notice May 10, 2022**

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**NEVERS, Malcolm** <Malcolm.Nevers@canadapost.postescanada.ca>  
To: Lee-Ann Gaudette <lgaudette@didsbury.ca>

Mon, Apr 25, 2022 at 3:52 PM

Hello,

Looks like Didsbury is expanding. Canada Post will provide mail delivery where needed. Currently, all mail in Didsbury is from the local post office. Should things change, the developer will be notified and we will proceed from there.

Regards,

Malcolm Nevers

Delivery Services

Canada Post Calgary

---

**From:** Lee-Ann Gaudette <lgaudette@didsbury.ca>**Sent:** April-25-22 2:31 PM**To:** setbackreferrals@aer.ca; transdevelopmentreddeer@gov.ab.ca; aep.oiblands@gov.ab.ca; waterapprovals.reddeer@gov.ab.ca; historical.lup@gov.ab.ca; 3rdpartyrequests@altalink.ca; isabel.solis@atcopipelines.com; division.office@cesd73.ca; NEVERS, Malcolm <Malcolm.Nevers@canadapost.postescanada.ca>; BAUER, Wendy <wendy.bauer@canadapost.postescanada.ca>; cyrus\_njung@cpr.ca; calgaryzone.environmentalhealth@ahs.ca; innisfail\_area@equs.ca; landserv@fortisalberta.com; info@foothillsgas.ca; PlanDev <plandev@mvcounty.com>; kdidsburyservices@rcmp-grc.gc.ca; circulations@telus.com; transcanada@bapg.ca; Ethan Gorner <egorner@didsbury.ca>; Amanda Riley <ariley@didsbury.ca>; Nicole Aasen <naasen@didsbury.ca>; Alexandra Ross <aross@didsbury.ca>; Curtis Mousseau <cmousseau@didsbury.ca>; Meg Phillips <meg\_phillips@didsbury.ca>; Craig Fox <cfox@didsbury.ca>**Subject:** Referrals: Public Hearing Notice May 10, 2022

**This email is from an EXTERNAL sender. Please be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments. | Ce courriel est d'un expéditeur EXTERNE. Soyez PRUDENT, en particulier avec des liens et des pièces jointes.**

[Quoted text hidden]

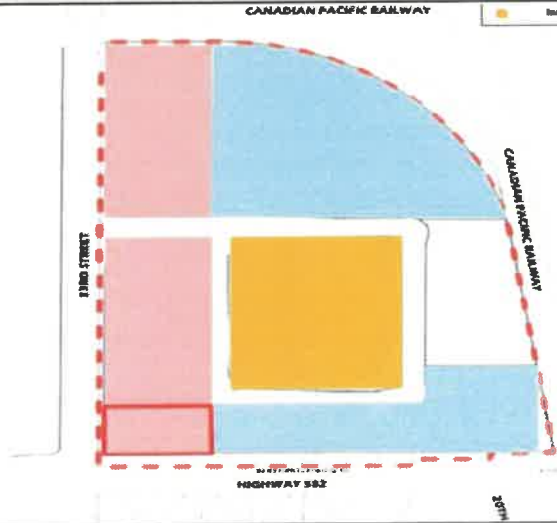
Construction and Maintenance Division  
Central Region; Red Deer  
4920 - 51 Street Provincial Building ( Red Deer )  
Red Deer, AB T4N6K8  
[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)

Permit Number: RPATH0002455  
File Number: Didsbury/ASP,LUB,MDP

2022-05-04

Town of Didsbury  
1606 14th St  
Didsbury Alberta

**Subject: Municipal Referral– Planning Documents**

Description	General Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bylaw No 2022-05 - MDP Amendment</li> <li>Bylaw 2022-06 - Shantz Village ASP Amendment</li> <li>Bylaw 2022-07 - Land Use Bylaw Re-designation</li> </ul>	

This will acknowledge receipt of the above referenced documents. Alberta Transportation's primary concern is protecting the safe and effective operation of provincial highway infrastructure, and planning for the future needs of the highway network in the vicinity of the plan area.

Alberta Transportation expects that the municipality will mitigate the impacts of traffic generated by developments approved on the local road connection to the highway system pursuant to the Provincial Land Use Policies and/or Regional Land Use plan that may be in effect.

The use of off-site levies, as outlined in Section 648 of the Municipal Government Act, is encouraged as one method of ensuring that new or expanded transportation infrastructure can be constructed as required to connect, or to improve

the connection of, municipal roads to provincial highways resulting from increased traffic from a subdivision or development. Please see the following comments:

- There are policies in place in the Shantz ASP to consider traffic impacts in the Transportation Impact Assessment (TIA) section. This section acknowledges the TIA by Urban Systems in 2012, and indicates *"In addition, improving the existing 23rd St and 20th St intersection along Highway 582 to a Type IIA and Type IIC intersection treatment as per Alberta Transportation Highway Geometric Design Guide was recommended."*

Alberta Transportation has plans showing a Type II as well as a Type III intersection upgrade at the Hwy 582 & 23<sup>rd</sup> St intersection, therefore AT is requiring an updated TIA memo in order to confirm which upgrade is actually required when the development stage takes place.

- Other than the comments included above, Alberta Transportation offers no objections to the proposed changes in the MDP or LUB.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed plans. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,



Digitally signed by  
Charlene Johnson  
Date: 2022.05.04  
15:40:50 -06'00'

Charlene Johnson  
Charlene.Johnson@gov.ab.ca



Luana Smith &lt;lsmith@didsbury.ca&gt;

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**Amendments to Bylaws 2012-09, 2016-04, 2019-04**

1 message

**Kristal Heise** <Kristal@mahalopi.ca>

Fri, May 6, 2022 at 12:51 PM

To: "legislative@didsbury.ca" &lt;legislative@didsbury.ca&gt;, "planning@didsbury.ca" &lt;planning@didsbury.ca&gt;, Ethan Gorner &lt;egorner@didsbury.ca&gt;

Cc: Sam Corea &lt;sam\_corea@buy-low.com&gt;

Dear Council,

This letter is in response to the public announcement of the proposed rezoning of Lot 8 from R2 – General Residential to C1 – General Commercial District. This lot directly adjoins our Lot 9 development of the Buy Low Foods, Dollarama, Pet Valu and Bob's Liquor Shoppe.

Our understanding with Shantz Village Land Corporation (SVLC) prior to development of Lot 9 was that Phase 1 would consist exclusively of a residential build. We shared this information in recruiting our tenants, and it was key to their 2-3 year decision to participate in the location in Didsbury. Changing the zoning at this point is contrary to that and as such, our tenants feel as though they have been duped by the entire group. Further, we expect this change in direction by the Town will hinder our ability in the future to attract national commercial tenants to Didsbury.

A special note should be given to the proposed new access to Lot 8 which will create a traffic stacking issue on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, in particular with the access for a tractor and trailer for a fuel station. We are very concerned that this is a major safety issue for traffic on both Hwy 582 and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Please be advised, we will have representatives present at the Public Hearing on May 10, in addition to tenant representatives, who will speak to our collective opposition to the proposed rezoning.

Kristal Heise

President

Shantz Village Market GP Inc.

E: [Kristal@MahaloPi.ca](mailto:Kristal@MahaloPi.ca) | P: 403.542.4815



## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.*

*Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2022  
SUBJECT: Bylaw 2022-05 Amending the Municipal Development Plan  
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services

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### **BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:**

Bylaw 2022-05 is a bylaw to amend Municipal Development Plan (MDP) 2012-09 to change the Shantz Village neighbourhood from “Industrial” to “Mixed-Use Lands”.

The changes to the MDP are to accommodate the proposed development. The considerations also explore the need to address the disposal of the existing Municipal Reserve on Lot 7 MR as part of the future development opportunities on the subject lands.

Please find attached Bylaw 2022-05.

### **DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES**

Council granted first reading to Bylaw 2022-05 at the April 12, 2022 Regular Council Meeting and set the Public Hearing for May 10, 2022, which was conducted during item 5.1 of this agenda.

If Council is in favour of approving the proposal, they may consider granting second and third reading to Bylaw 2022-05 to amend Municipal Development Plan Bylaw 2019-09.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN**

#### **1. Economic Prosperity**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council grant second reading to Bylaw 2022-05 amending the Municipal Development Plan.

AND, IF COUNCIL IS COMFORTABLE MOVING FORWARD

That Council grant third and final reading to Bylaw 2022-05 amending the Municipal Development Plan.

ALTERNATIVELY

Council may request additional information to be brought back prior to moving forward with third reading.

**TOWN OF DIDSBURY**  
**Amending the Municipal Development Plan**  
**Bylaw No. 2022-05**

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A Bylaw of the Town of Didsbury in the Province of Alberta, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, being Chapter M-26-1, of the revised Statutes of Alberta and amendments thereto, to amend Municipal Development Plan 2012-09.

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Town of Didsbury deems it necessary to amend Bylaw 2012-09: Municipal Development Plan;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Council of the Town of Didsbury, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled enacts the following:

(1) This Bylaw may be cited as Amending Bylaw 2022-05 to amend the Municipal Development Plan 2012-09.

(2) Bylaw 2012-09, being the Town of Didsbury Municipal Development Plan, is hereby amended

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Council of the Town of Didsbury, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled enacts as follows:

**1. SHORT TITLE**

1.1. This Bylaw may be referred to as the “Amending Municipal Development Plan Bylaw”

**2. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

2.1. That Map A: Overall Land Use Concept, of the Municipal Development Plan Bylaw 2012-09 be replaced with updated Map A as defined in Schedule A, to demonstrate a change in future land use from Industrial to Mixed Use Lands.

**3. EFFECTIVE DATE**

3.1. This Bylaw shall come into upon passing of the third and final reading.

Read a First time on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022

Read a Second time on this       day of

Read a Third and Final time on this       day of

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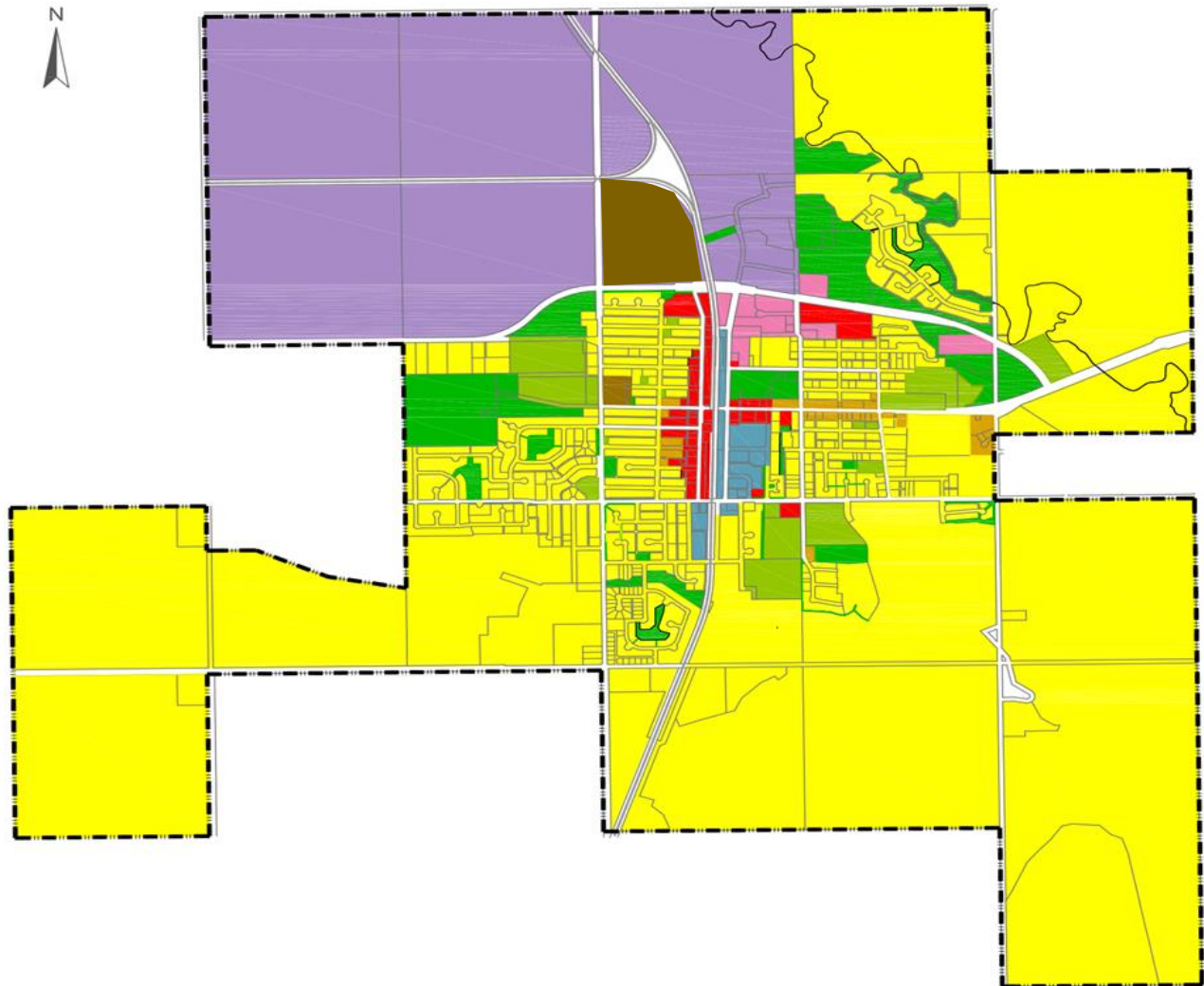
Mayor Rhonda Hunter

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Chief Administrative Officer Ethan Gorner

## SCHEDULE A

### Map A - Overall Land Use Concept



#### Legion

-  Residential Lands
-  Commercial Lands
-  Residential Commercial Lands
-  Mixed Use Lands
-  Light Industrial Lands
-  Industrial Lands
-  Speacial Area
-  Open Space/Recreation Lands
-  Institutional Lands (School, Church, Hall, Hospital)
-  Didsbury Boundary

NOTE:  
This map may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means without written permission of the Town of Didsbury.

Persons seeking area or site-specific information should contact the Planning Department (403-335-3391) and not rely on this conceptual map as an accurate basis for local planning issues.

Not to Scale  
amended November 23, 2012







## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

**Vision:** *The Place to Grow.*

**Mission:** *Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2022  
SUBJECT: Bylaw 2022-06 Amending the Shantz Village Area Structure Plan  
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services

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### **BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:**

Bylaw 2022-06 is a bylaw to amend Shantz Village Area Structure Plan (ASP) 2016-04 to change the subject lands from Residential to Commercial and to add the following phrase to Policy 6.10.5 “unless authorized by Alberta Transportation”.

The proposed amendment aligns with the following sections of the ASP:

- Section 5.2 outlines a series of Guiding Principles, and the proposed development seeks to maintain strong transitions to adjacent lands, while providing quality development along a key corridor that increases employment opportunities in the Town.
- Section 6.2 reinforces the priorities within the commercial areas, outlining the need for commercial uses for both the Shantz neighbourhood and the whole community with available access and parking, which have been articulated in the proposed development.
- Section 6.10 prioritizes multi-modal access to the site, accommodating access for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists. The proposed access to 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and the retention of the trail corridor, increases vehicle access to the Shantz neighbourhood and provides opportunities for non-motorized traffic to circulate throughout the development.

Please find attached Bylaw 2022-06.

### **DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES**

Council granted first reading to Bylaw 2022-06 at the April 12, 2022 Regular Council Meeting and set the Public Hearing for May 10, 2022, which was conducted during item 5.1 of this agenda.

If Council is in favour of approving the proposal, they may consider granting second and third reading to Bylaw 2022-06 to amend Shantz Village Area Structure Plan (ASP) 2016-04.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN**

#### **1. Economic Prosperity**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council grant second reading to Bylaw 2022-06 amending the Shantz Village Area Structure Plan.

AND, IF COUNCIL IS COMFORTABLE MOVING FORWARD

That Council grant third and final reading to Bylaw 2022-06 amending the Shantz Village Area Structure Plan.

ALTERNATIVELY

Council may request additional information to be brought back prior to moving forward with third reading.

**TOWN OF DIDSBURY**  
**Amending the Shantz Village Area Structure Plan**  
**Bylaw No. 2022-06**

---

A Bylaw of the Town of Didsbury in the Province of Alberta, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, being Chapter M-26-1, of the revised Statutes of Alberta and amendments thereto, to amend the Shantz Village Area Structure Plan 2016-04.

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Town of Didsbury deems it necessary to amend Bylaw 2016-04: Shantz Village Area Structure Plan;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Council of the Town of Didsbury, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled enacts the following:

- (1) This Bylaw may be cited as Amending Bylaw 2022-06 to amend the Shantz Village Area Structure Plan Bylaw 2016-04.
- (2) Bylaw 2016-04, being the Shantz Village Area Structure Plan, is hereby amended

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Council of the Town of Didsbury, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled enacts as follows:

**1. SHORT TITLE**

- 1.1. This Bylaw may be referred to as the “Amending the Shantz Village Area Structure Plan”

**2. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

- 2.1. That Policy 6.10.5 of the Shantz Village Area Structure Plan 2016-04 be amended to state the following:  
“The minimum intersection spacing along 23 Street shall be located 300 metres from the existing centre line of Highway 582, unless a lesser distance is approved by Alberta Transportation.”
- 2.2. That Figure 7: Land Use Policy Areas, of the Shantz Village Area Structure Plan Bylaw 2016-04 be replaced with updated Figure 7 as defined in Schedule A, to demonstrate a change in future land use from Residential to Commercial.

**3. EFFECTIVE DATE**

- 3.1. This Bylaw shall come into upon passing of the third and final reading.

Read a First time on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022

Read a Second time on this       day of

Read a Third and Final time on this       day of

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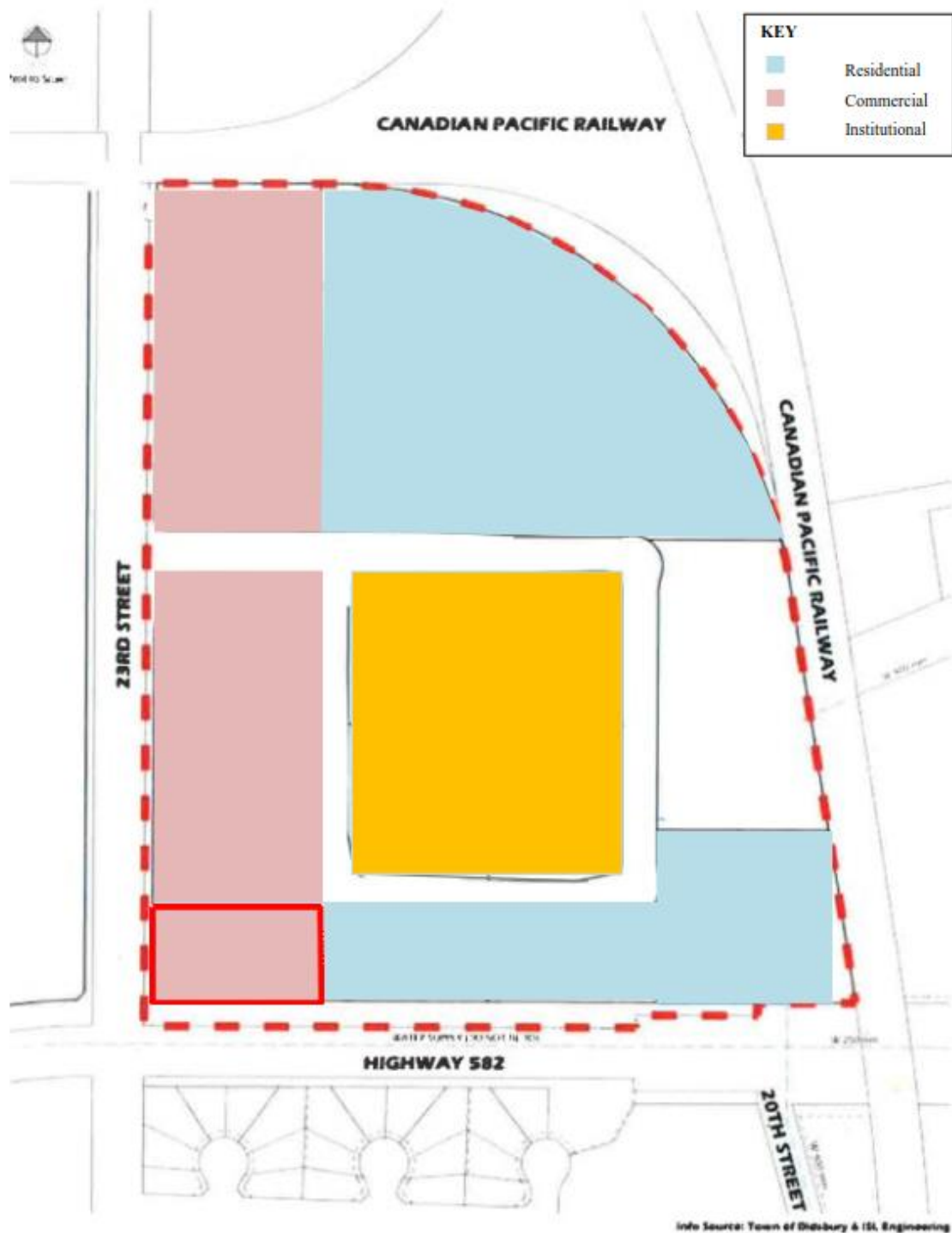
Mayor Rhonda Hunter

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Chief Administrative Officer Ethan Gorner

## SCHEDULE A

# Land Use Policy Area





## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

**Vision:** *The Place to Grow.*

**Mission:** *Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2022  
SUBJECT: Bylaw 2022-07 Amending the Land Use Bylaw  
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services

---

### **BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:**

Bylaw 2022-07 is a bylaw to amend Land Use Bylaw (LUB) 2019-04 to redesignate the subject lands from R2-General Residential to C1-General Commercial.

The LUB designates the subject lands as R2-General Residential, along with the lands directly adjacent its eastern boundary. The original intent of the Shantz Village plan identified a strip of residential lands across the southern boundary along the Highway 582 corridor. Given the nature and location of the initial development within the Shantz Village (the grocery store and commercial retail), there is a natural transition, extending commercial uses to the south.

Please see attached Bylaw 2022-07.

### **DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES**

Council granted first reading to Bylaw 2022-07 at the April 12, 2022 Regular Council Meeting and set the Public Hearing for May 10, 2022, which was conducted during item 5.1 of this agenda.

If Council is in favour of approving the proposal, they may consider granting second and third reading to Bylaw 2022-07 to amend Land Use Bylaw 2019-04.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN**

#### **1. Economic Prosperity**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council grant second reading to Bylaw 2022-07 amending the Land Use Bylaw.

AND, IF COUNCIL IS COMFORTABLE MOVING FORWARD

That Council grant third and final reading to Bylaw 2022-07 amending the Land Use Bylaw.

ALTERNATIVELY

Council may request additional information to be brought back prior to moving forward with third reading.

**TOWN OF DIDSBURY**  
**Amending the Land Use Bylaw-Shantz**  
**Bylaw No. 2022-07**

---

A Bylaw of the Town of Didsbury in the Province of Alberta, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, being Chapter M-26-1, of the revised Statutes of Alberta and amendments thereto, to amend Land Use Bylaw 2019-04.

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Town of Didsbury deems it necessary to amend Bylaw 2019-04: Land Use Bylaw;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Council of the Town of Didsbury, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled enacts the following:

(1) This Bylaw may be cited as Amending Bylaw 2022- to amend the Land Use Bylaw 2019-04.

(2) Bylaw 2019-04, being the Town of Didsbury Land Use Bylaw, is hereby amended

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Council of the Town of Didsbury, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled enacts as follows:

**1. SHORT TITLE**

1.1. This Bylaw may be referred to as the “Amending the Land Use Bylaw-Shantz”

**2. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

2.1. That Appendix A, Map A, of the Land Use Bylaw 2019-04 be replaced with updated Map A Land Use District Map as defined in Schedule A, to demonstrate redesignation of parcels within the defined boundary from R2: Residential District – General to C1: Commercial District - General.

**3. EFFECTIVE DATE**

3.1. This Bylaw shall come into upon passing of the third and final reading.

Read a First time on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022

Read a Second time on this        day of

Read a Third and Final time on this        day of

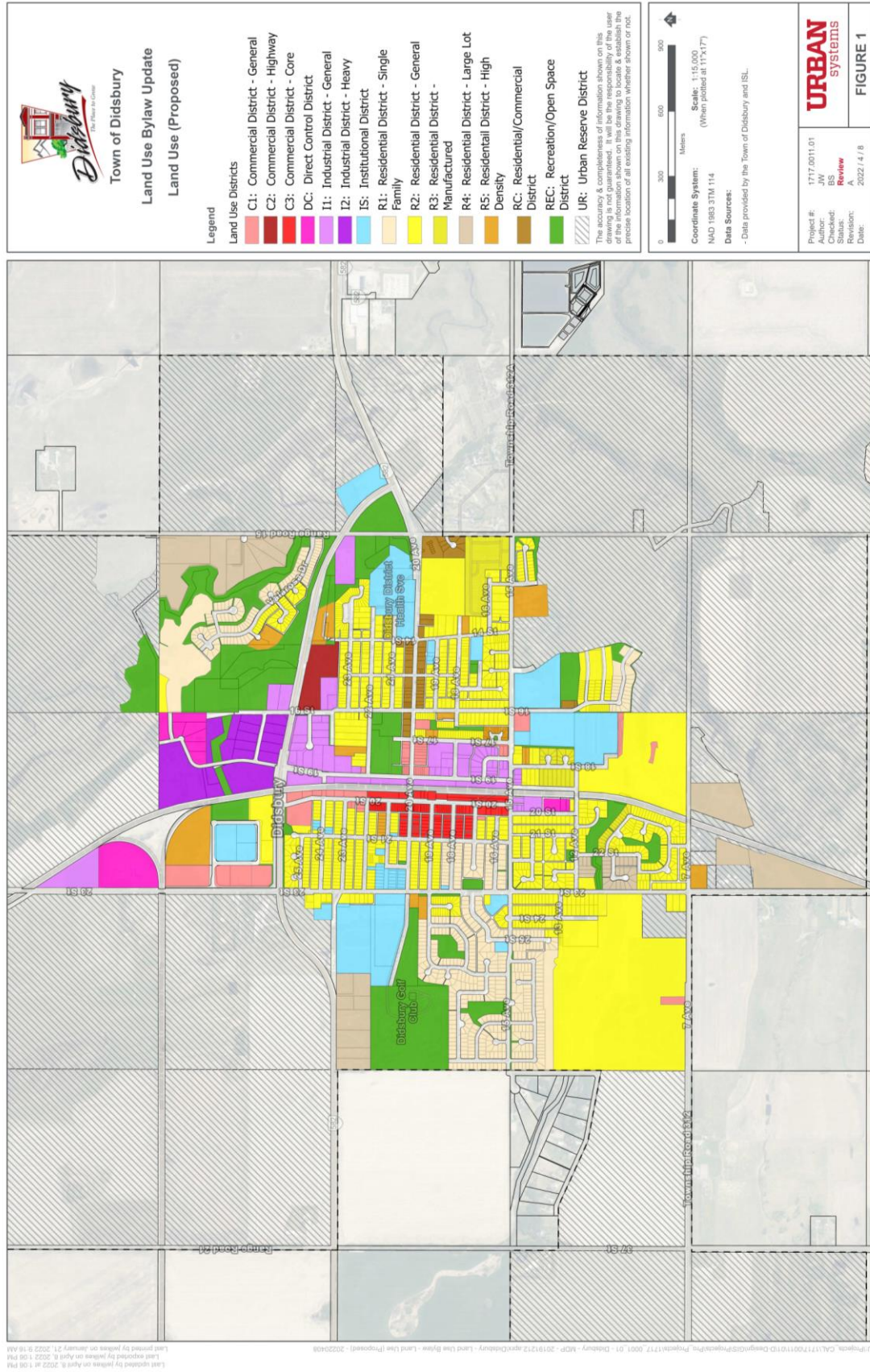
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Mayor Rhonda Hunter

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Chief Administrative Officer Ethan Gorner

# SCHEDULE A







## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.*

*Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2022  
SUBJECT: Disposal of Municipal Reserve  
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services

---

### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Shantz Village lands contain a Municipal Reserve (MR) parcel along the southern and eastern boundary. This was initially identified for a trail connection as part of the initial Area Structure Plan (ASP).

However, the lands along the southern boundary are within the long-term plans for widening Highway 582 and the Town ultimately built the trail along the northern and western boundary, rendering the current MR irrelevant to the Town.

### DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

Council approved to initiate the process of the disposal of the existing Municipal Reserve on Lot 7 MR as part of the future development opportunities on the subject lands.

The process to consider the amendments of the Municipal Development Plan, Shantz Village Area Structure Plan and Land Use Bylaw included the disposal of the existing Lot 7 MR as part of the Public Hearing which was held during item 5.1 of this agenda.

If Council has passed third reading of Bylaw 2022-05, 2022-06 and 2022-07, Council may consider approving the disposal of the Municipal Reserve.

### ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

#### 1. Economic Prosperity

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the disposal of Lot 7 MR in Shantz Village.

#### ALTERNATIVELY

That Council accept the disposal of Lot 7 MR in Shantz Village as information.



## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.*

*Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2022  
SUBJECT: Resolution – Attraction and Retention of Veterinarians to Rural Veterinary Practice  
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services

---

### **BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:**

Mountain View County Councillor Gord Krebs gave a presentation to Council on support for the Attraction and Retention of Veterinarians to Rural Practice at the February 8, 2022 Regular Council Meeting.

Council made a motion directing Administration to explore the opportunity, including logistics and timelines, of presenting a resolution supporting the Attraction and Retention of Veterinarians to Rural Urban Veterinary Practice at the Alberta Municipalities Annual Convention in September and to create such a resolution for Council to review and consider at a future Regular Council Meeting.

### **DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES**

Please find attached the resolution that has been updated relative to support from small/mid-sized urban municipalities.

Reeve Aalbers sent out a letter which is attached for Council's information asking other rural municipalities to support this initiative.

Council is being asked to approve the Attraction and Retention of Veterinarians to Rural Veterinary Practice resolution to be submitted to the Alberta Municipalities Fall Convention.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN**

#### **2. An Informed & Engaged Community**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council move to approve the Attraction and Retention of Veterinarians to Rural Veterinary Practice resolution to be submitted to the Alberta Municipalities 2022 Fall Convention.



## Attraction and Retention of Veterinarians to Small/Mid-sized Urban Municipalities Veterinary Practice Town of Didsbury

*Endorsed by the City of Camrose (To Be Confirmed)*

---

**WHEREAS** over the past 30 years increasing demand in Alberta's rural regions and small/mid-sized urban municipalities that serve these rural regions for veterinary medical professionals (veterinarians and veterinary technologists) combined with veterinary students more commonly choosing major urban centered careers, have created a labor shortage that has reached a crisis level; and

**WHEREAS** veterinary medicine is critical to the economy, community sustainability, and quality of life in small/mid-sized urban municipalities via its contributions to agriculture, food safety, animal health and welfare; and

**WHEREAS** many veterinary practices are located outside of the major urban centers and provide services to four common domestic species (Bovine, Equine, Canine and Feline); and

**WHEREAS** students choosing to locate and remain in veterinary practice in small/mid-sized urban municipalities are more likely to be those originating from and living in small/mid-sized urban municipalities and/or in the rural regions in Alberta; and

**WHEREAS** in 2020, veterinary medicine in Alberta generated 10,211 full time employees who contributed over \$206 million in federal, provincial and municipal taxes; and

**WHEREAS** small/mid-sized urban municipalities have a considerable role in attracting and retaining a local and regional workforce including veterinary medical professionals.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alberta Municipalities agrees to support attraction and retention actions by UCMV, AbVMA and municipalities themselves to reduce veterinary professional shortages, especially in small/mid-sized urban municipalities that also serve rural regions in Alberta; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alberta Municipalities support veterinary education in Alberta and urge the Government of Alberta (GOA) to officially endorse new programs at UCMV that will help to alleviate the veterinarian shortage crisis in small/mid-sized urban municipalities that also serve rural regions through actions that include:

1. Development of a small/mid-sized urban/rural urban municipalities practitioner stream;
2. Participation of Alberta Municipalities in UCMV programs of outreach to small/mid-sized urban municipalities that also serve rural regions to encourage and support successful rural / small urban student admission to UCMV;
3. Development of an online veterinary support program for veterinarians in practice to increase retention of veterinary professionals;
4. Development of a Stackable Clinical Certificate Program allowing for certification of foreign trained veterinarians and providing a structured process for career diversification and/or re-entry into the work force after career break; and
5. Participation of Alberta Municipalities in a committee pursuing recruitment of foreign veterinarians from high quality universities to help ensure "a good fit" in small/mid-sized urban municipalities that also serve rural regions.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Alberta Municipalities work with UCMV to expand the UCMV admissions committee and provide, on an ongoing basis, a selected number of committee members who are located in, and familiar with, small/mid-sized urban municipalities in Alberta needs; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Alberta Municipalities work to examine and implement best practices to conduct outreach to recruit veterinary students and retain veterinary professionals who will work and reside in small/mid-sized urban municipalities that serve rural regions in Alberta.

## Member Background

Definitions:

ABVMA – Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

GOA – Government of Alberta

GPA – Grade Point Average

MCAT- Medical College Admissions Test

MMI – Multiple Mini Interview

UCVM – University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

There is a crisis level global shortage of veterinarians and veterinary technologists, affecting Alberta. It is estimated that there are currently at minimum 864 veterinary professional vacancies in Alberta (377 veterinarians and 487 veterinary technologists). The job vacancy rates for veterinarians (16.7%) and veterinary technologists (18.8%) far exceeds the provincial average of 2.6%. In the April 2021 ABVMA/ABVTA Veterinary Professional Workforce Study, it was projected that due to increasing expansion demand (demand for service increases due to pet ownership, increased disposable income and increasing livestock numbers) and due to replacement demand, the shortage of professionals will increase more than 3.5 times by 2040. Using current trends, in eighteen years, the shortage of veterinary professionals is estimated to be more than 3371 people (1331 veterinarians and 2407 technologists).

While the labor shortage is an issue throughout Alberta, practices in small/mid-sized urban municipalities that also serve rural regions are particularly impacted by staff shortages due partly to recruitment and admissions challenges. Further, our communities are impacted acutely in the current environment and face restricted economic growth post-Covid without targeted and immediate actions to address the shortages. Attraction and retention of veterinary medical professionals based in small/mid-sized urban municipalities that also serve rural regions has not been keeping pace with increasing demand.

Alberta Municipalities is requesting the Government of Alberta (GOA) officially endorse a University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) initiative for the implementation of admissions and curriculum changes that would benefit a significant need in small/mid-sized urban municipalities that also serve rural regions in Alberta.

UCVM is one of five veterinary schools in Canada and was the last Canadian veterinarian program to begin operations. It was developed to meet Alberta's need for highly skilled veterinary graduates to support rural Alberta, production animal and equine industries, animal and human health research, and public health. In the 15 years since inception, UCVM has become one of the top 40 veterinary schools in the world.

Established in 2005, UCVM commenced with a class of thirty (30) students which was augmented by the transfer of the twenty (20) funded Alberta students at Saskatchewan's Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN). In 2017, Alberta's government reduced funding for the twenty WCVN seats and transferred the funding to UCVM. These 50 seats for veterinary education of Alberta students have remained unchanged despite shifting demand pressures. Today, UCVM needs the support of Alberta Municipalities to expand its capacity and to adapt its programming.

Currently, UCVM selects 50 Alberta students per year to enter the four-year veterinary medicine program. Recent funding announcements will increase that number to 100 starting in 2025. In August 2021, there were 5.4 qualified applicants for every educational seat at UCVM. Alberta students are demanding veterinary education be available at home rather than pursuing their education and career in other jurisdictions.

Starting with the incoming class for 2022, all applicants must write the MCAT. A pre-determined minimum MCAT score is required to advance to the interview stage of the application process. This minimum score is to ensure that successful applicants can handle the academic requirements of the curriculum. Applicants who successfully meet the pre-determined MCAT score then enter an interview process that involves Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) scenarios. The MMI is designed to gauge a successful applicant's knowledge of a career in veterinary medicine and their likelihood to succeed in such a career. It would be advantageous for Alberta Municipalities to establish a strong relationship with UCVM, which would provide opportunity for Alberta Municipalities to be part of the recruitment, selection and retention of UCVM graduates.

The long-standing shortage of veterinary practitioners in small/mid-sized urban municipalities that serve rural regions in Alberta is well known. It has been shown that the likelihood of someone entering and succeeding in a veterinary practice in small/mid-sized urban municipalities that serve rural regions is much higher (39%) if they have significant knowledge and experience in a practice within and lifestyle of small/mid-sized urban municipalities. UCVM partnerships with Alberta Municipalities will assist with identifying suitable candidates for the DVM program. Members of these communities are in the ideal position to judge "best fit". The "grow your own vet" model will increase the likelihood that veterinary students will go back to their home community after graduation.

In 2020, there were 1832 registered veterinarians in Alberta and 1852 registered veterinary technologists, working in 554 veterinary practices, employing over 6600 full time equivalent employees. The total output of Alberta veterinary practices was estimated to be \$2.021 billion. This does not include the contributions made by veterinarians to Alberta's agriculture sector, which contributed \$9.68 billion in GDP and employed 69,800 Albertans. As such, access to local veterinary services for farmers and livestock producers is essential for the sustainability of the primary agriculture industry as well as Alberta's overall economy. Further, sustainability and growth of our small/mid-sized urban communities is dependent on access to veterinary services both today and in the foreseeable future.



# Mountain View C O U N T Y

March 24, 2022

Via e-mail

Dear Alberta Reeves and Mayors:

Re: ABVMA Resolution

Thank you for your support regarding the Rural Veterinarian shortage in Alberta. I was unable to speak to the amended version, but I have a few details I would like to share with you.

Budget 2022 delivered \$59 million over 3 years to University of Calgary - Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) for infrastructure upgrades. Please thank your MLAs and Ministers.

Budget 2022 also pledged \$171 million to post secondary professional training. This is a competitive process for 7000 post secondary seats, but Veterinary Medicine has been singled out and an additional 50 seats have been “ring fence funded”. This means these seats are funded outside of the competition for other professions. Starting with the Class of 2025, Alberta will graduate 100 Veterinarians per year.

In Budget 2022, the Government of Alberta has funded the most expensive asks in our original resolution. However, it is important they implement all the initiatives. If the extra 50 seats continue to be filled with students more likely to join practices in urban centres, it will not solve the rural crisis. Currently, approximately 80% of the successful applicants to UCVM have never been on a farm.

The push is needed for the Government of Alberta to support:

1. Participation of RMA in the UCVM admissions process to encourage and support successful rurally minded student admission to UCVM
2. Aiding UCVM in curriculum changes to develop a rural practitioner stream
3. Mentorship programs for rural Veterinarians
4. UCVM initiatives to develop Stackable Certificate programs

We are encouraging you to pass on the RMA Rural Veterinarian Resolution to your local Veterinarians, Producers, and Constituents, and encourage them to thank their MLA's for Budget 2022 and continue support of admission of rurally inclined students to UCVM.

Sincerely,

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Gord Krebs  
Councillor, Division 4

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Angela Aalbers  
Reeve, Mountain View County



## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

**Vision:** *The Place to Grow.*

**Mission:** *Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2022  
SUBJECT: DEDAC New Member Appointment  
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Economic Development & Strategic Operations

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### **BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:**

The Didsbury Economic Development Advisory Committee (DEDAC) would like to make a recommendation for an appointment of a new member to the DEDAC Committee for Council's consideration.

### **DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES**

The Economic Development Advisory Committee, through the Economic Development Officer received an application for the committee.

Councillor Ethan Williams on behalf of DEDAC reached out to post secondary and high schools to recruit youth members for the DEDAC Committee. Brody Fazakas responded to the recruitment call and provided an application that has been reviewed by the DEDAC members.

The members find Brody an excellent addition to the Committee as he demonstrated an interest in business, entrepreneurship and economic development. Already running his own small business in Didsbury he not only brings entrepreneurial experience, but also a youth perspective to the Committee. This would fill the youth member representation on the DEDAC Committee as outlined in the Committee Bylaw.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN**

#### **1. Economic Prosperity**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council appoint Brody Fazakas as a new member to the Didsbury Economic Development Advisory Committee.



## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.*

*Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2022  
SUBJECT: Letter of Support – Alberta Cultural Days  
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services

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### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The Didsbury and District Chamber of Commerce have requested a Letter of Support from the Town of Didsbury for their application for the Alberta Cultural Days Grant.

### DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

The Chamber is proposing to hold an event called “Let’s Eat...Didsbury”, which is a celebration of Didsbury’s cultural heritage and will give the local restaurants and cultural groups a chance to showcase their food and arts.

The event will take place over 3 days: September 14 to 16, 2022. Each day, for 5 hours, various locations will provide coffee/tea and dessert. Those participating are encouraged to provide a signature meal that depicts their culture.

All costs associated with this event including, food, advertising and promotions will be covered from the grant funds.

The Chamber has received several letters of support from local restaurants, and would appreciate the Town of Didsbury also giving their support.

### ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

#### 4. Healthy Active Living

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the Letter of Support from Mayor Hunter, on behalf of Council, supporting the Didsbury and District Chamber of Commerce in their application for the Alberta Cultural Days Grant.



## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.*

*Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2022  
SUBJECT: 2022 Operating Budget – Draft 4  
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Corporate Services

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### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Council held an operating budget meeting on May 2, 2022 at which the 2022 operating budget was deliberated. Beginning with Draft 3 of the budget Council approved several changes which amounted to revenues from tax of \$4,932,598.

There were some additional changes that were required by Administration due to the calculation of certain amounts for which their estimated values differed slightly from the actual calculations. These changes are documented on the reconciliation page attached and have a net \$0 impact. They relate to the library funding framework calculation, the wage adjustments and council PD. One additional change is being brought forward by Council which is an adjustment to an estimate based on recent actual information and would result in a further \$8,602 reduction of the revenues from taxes to total \$4,923,996.

The reconciliation of this revenues from tax amount, a five year comparison of tax revenues, a comparison of Budget Draft 4 to Budget Draft 1 and a Two Year Budget Comparison are included for Council's information.

Comments on the operating budget were closed on April 27, 2022. All comments that were received are also being provided for Council's information.

### DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

Once the Town's budget is approved, the revenues from taxes amount is included in the Town's tax rate bylaw along with the predetermined assessment values. The tax rates are calculated based on this information and the tax split between residential and non-residential properties. Education, Senior's Housing and DIP requisitions also impact the total tax rate for residential and non-residential properties.

### ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

#### 1. Economic Prosperity

### RECOMMENDATION

To Approve the 2022 Operating Budget as presented with estimated revenues totaling \$12,097,450 and estimated expenses totaling \$12,097,450, and with Revenues from Taxes being \$4,923,996, representing a 4.2% increase over 2021 and a 1.8% increase over 2019.



## DRAFT 4

### RECONCILIATION OF BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

<b>DRAFT 3 BUDGETED TAX REVENUES</b>	<b>4,938,779</b>
<i>Additional DEDAC Committee funds</i>	<i>2,000</i>
<i>Adjustment to Library Funding Framework per capita amount</i>	<i>7,700</i>
<i>Economic Development requests (not including contingency)</i>	<i>68,000</i>
<i>Additional Municipal Enforcement Capacity (+0.5 FTE begin July 1)</i>	<i>25,000</i>
<i>Eliminate \$45,000 transfer to general reserves</i>	<i>(45,000)</i>
<i>Reduce promotional/swag expense</i>	<i>(4,000)</i>
<i>Reduce budget for recreation facility maintenance</i>	<i>(20,000)</i>
<i>Reduce estimate for Council remuneration</i>	<i>(10,000)</i>
<i>Additional Council Professional Development budget</i>	<i>5,000</i>
<i>Reduced printing due to transition to Online Only Community Living Guide</i>	<i>(10,000)</i>
<i>Fund remaining MDP from general reserve funds</i>	<i>(24,881)</i>
<b>BUDGETED TAX REVENUES APPROVED May 2, 2022 by COUNCIL</b>	<b>4,932,598</b>
<p>The amounts from above used during May 2, 2022 budget deliberations were estimates that were adjusted for inclusion in the budget. The adjustments required net to \$0 and are listed below:</p>	
<i>Library Funding Framework (adjustment based on calculation 5268*47.85)</i>	<i>(9)</i>
<i>Adjustments to wage estimates from above</i>	<i>(3,760)</i>
<i>Council professional development based on further review of plans</i>	<i>3,769</i>
	<b>4,932,598</b>
<p>Other adjustments:</p>	
<i>Adjust budget to actual - MVC Shared Facility Contribution due to difference between original estimate and recent actual payment received</i>	<i>(8,602)</i>
<b>DRAFT 4 BUDGETED TAX REVENUES</b>	<b>4,923,996</b>

## Net Municipal Taxation

### TAX REVENUES

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
	DRAFT 4 Budget	Approved Budget	Approved Budget	Approved Budget	Approved Budget
<b>Net Municipal Taxation (Tax Revenues)</b>	<b>\$ 4,923,996</b>	<b>\$ 4,727,454</b>	<b>\$ 4,676,174</b>	<b>\$ 4,837,046</b>	<b>\$ 4,922,275</b>
<i>Percent Increase/decrease over prior year</i>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>-3.3%</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<i>Percent Increase/decrease over 2019</i>	<b>1.8%</b>				
<i>Percent Increase/decrease over 2018</i>	<b>0.035%</b>				

## DRAFT 4 to DRAFT 1 BUDGET COMPARISON

		2022		Variance		NOTES
		DRAFT 4 Budget	DRAFT 1 Budget	\$	%	
Revenue						
R1	Net municipal taxation (Tax Revenues)	\$ 4,923,996	\$ 5,292,249	\$ (368,253)	-7%	
R2	Government operating grants	1,282,233	1,262,932	19,301	2%	Added payroll and shared facility funding
R3	Utility user charges	2,960,432	2,960,642	(210)	0%	Utility dept impact of wage reduction
R4	Sales and user fees	1,544,288	1,535,288	9,000	1%	Added recreation revenue
R5	Franchise fees	815,000	785,000	30,000	4%	Added franchise fee revenue
R6	Penalties and fines	124,500	124,500	-	0%	
R7	Licenses and permits	130,000	109,000	21,000	19%	Added permit revenue
R8	Investment income	50,000	50,000	-	0%	
R9	Other revenue	40,000	40,000	-	0%	
R10	From reserve	227,001	187,000	40,001	21%	Added Transfer to fund MDP
Total - Revenue		\$ 12,097,450	\$ 12,346,611	\$ (249,161)	-2%	
Expenditures						
E1	Salaries and benefits	\$ 4,277,560	\$ 4,213,850	\$ 63,710	2%	Reduced COLA; Added PW Capacity
E2	Training, conferences and travel	143,973	136,205	7,768	6%	Additional PD funds - Council
E3	Memberships	24,155	24,155	-	0%	
E4	Advertising and printing	107,125	122,625	(15,500)	-13%	Reduced newspaper advertising & printing
E5	Professional services	308,420	275,420	33,000	12%	LUB deferred; Added Planning Services
E6	Contracted services	936,576	882,576	54,000	6%	Added Ec Dev costs
E7	Municipal Policing Contract	539,000	579,000	(40,000)	-7%	Reduced contract policing estimate
E8	Telecommunications	225,237	225,237	-	0%	
E9	General supplies	447,550	464,650	(17,100)	-4%	Reduced supplies (multi departmental)
E10	Cost of Water	916,250	916,250	-	0%	
E11	Repairs and maintenance	724,250	970,250	(246,000)	-25%	defer Road rehab, rec facility maint
E12	Utilities	720,150	720,150	-	0%	
E13	Insurance	171,870	171,870	-	0%	
E14	Leases	66,670	66,670	-	0%	
E15	Bank charges and interest	18,400	18,400	-	0%	
E16	Interest on long term debt	101,928	101,928	-	0%	
E17	Long term debt repaid	544,505	544,505	-	0%	
E18	Grants and other payments to organizations	584,258	580,367	3,891	1%	Increased Library funds; reduced FCSS grant to DNP
E19	To capital	3,500	3,500	-	0%	
E20	To reserve	1,236,073	1,279,003	(42,930)	-3%	Removed \$45K transfer to gen reserve
E21	Contingency	-	50,000	(50,000)	-100%	no contingency
Total - Expenditures		\$ 12,097,450	\$ 12,346,611	\$ (249,161)	-2%	
Net Revenue over Expenditures		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	
Non-Cash Adjustments					-	
Amortization		2,308,330	-	2,308,330	-	
Gain(loss) on disposal of assets		-	-	-	-	
Contributed assets		-	-	-	-	
add back: Amortization		(2,308,330)	-	(2,308,330)	-	
Net Impact for Budget Purposes		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	

## Two Year Budget Comparison

by OBJECT

	2022	2021	2021	Budget Variance	
	DRAFT 4 Budget	Approved Budget	Actual	\$	%
<b>Revenue</b>					
R1 Net municipal taxation (Tax Revenues)	\$ 4,923,996	\$ 4,727,454	\$ 4,739,189	\$ 196,542	4%
R2 Government operating grants	1,282,233	1,743,631	1,792,371	(461,398)	-26%
R3 Utility user charges	2,960,432	2,828,704	3,056,832	131,728	5%
R4 Sales and user fees	1,544,288	1,274,575	1,144,603	269,713	21%
R5 Franchise fees	815,000	760,000	794,074	55,000	7%
R6 Penalties and fines	124,500	131,500	125,389	(7,000)	-5%
R7 Licenses and permits	130,000	41,900	90,025	88,100	210%
R8 Investment income	50,000	25,000	49,556	25,000	100%
R9 Other revenue	40,000	30,000	421,038	10,000	33%
R10 From reserve	227,001	78,000	445,449	149,001	191%
<b>Total - Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 12,097,450</b>	<b>\$ 11,640,764</b>	<b>\$ 12,658,527</b>	<b>\$ 456,686</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
E1 Salaries and benefits	\$ 4,277,560	\$ 3,916,110	\$ 3,760,863	\$ 361,450	9%
E2 Training, conferences and travel	143,973	90,925	74,288	53,048	58%
E3 Memberships	24,155	27,340	19,566	(3,185)	-12%
E4 Advertising and printing	107,125	117,316	97,974	(10,191)	-9%
E5 Professional services	308,420	210,620	240,996	97,800	46%
E6 Contracted services	936,576	792,576	753,753	144,000	18%
E7 Municipal Policing Contract	539,000	527,000	452,399	12,000	2%
E8 Telecommunications	225,237	215,075	211,723	10,162	5%
E9 General supplies	447,550	440,116	388,984	7,434	2%
E10 Cost of Water	916,250	810,000	896,654	106,250	13%
E11 Repairs and maintenance	724,250	941,600	949,931	(217,350)	-23%
E12 Utilities	720,150	649,850	641,969	70,300	11%
E13 Insurance	171,870	159,000	157,089	12,870	8%
E14 Leases	66,670	66,490	21,116	180	0%
E15 Bank charges and interest	18,400	12,900	15,052	5,500	43%
E16 Interest on long term debt	101,928	126,603	118,221	(24,675)	-19%
E17 Long term debt repaid	544,505	594,169	594,168	(49,664)	-8%
E18 Grants and other payments to organization	584,258	583,009	575,300	1,249	0%
E19 To capital	3,500	7,500	53,854	(4,000)	-53%
E20 To reserve	1,236,073	1,302,565	3,131,285	(66,492)	-5%
E21 Contingency	-	50,000	-	(50,000)	-100%
<b>Total - Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 12,097,450</b>	<b>\$ 11,640,764</b>	<b>\$ 13,155,185</b>	<b>\$ 456,686</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Net Revenue over Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (496,659)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Non-Cash Adjustments</b>					
Amortization	2,308,330	-	2,308,331	2,308,330	-
Gain(loss) on disposal of assets	-	-	(265,113)	-	-
Contributed assets	-	-	387,428	-	-
add back: Amortization	(2,308,330)	-	-	(2,308,330)	-
<b>Net Impact for Budget Purposes</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (2,682,675)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>-</b>

Feedback on the 2022 Operating Budget closed on April 27, 2022 at 12pm. Feedback was received via the Town website and in written form at the Town office. The comments are as follows:

1. **Share with us your comments, questions and/or concerns regarding the 2022 Town of Didsbury Operating Budget**  
I have not been able to browse the entire budget yet but I did read about a 12% increase in taxes. A 12% increase would add over \$400 to my current yearly rate and I just cannot afford that. The prices of everything is going up around us except our wages. I do not agree with the proposed increase and would like the town to look for areas that can be cut to make it work.
2. **Share with us your comments, questions and/or concerns regarding the 2022 Town of Didsbury Operating Budget**  
Residential taxes CANNOT go up in this town. The people in this town are all already stretched to the max. It should be no surprise to hear that? Cost of living has never been this high, and now you want to raise taxes??? Why is our council not trying to find ways of lessening the tax burden? Why is our council not trying to just manage what we have? Why is it that this council's first move to just raise taxes? Do you honestly think that the home owners of Didsbury deserve an increase in taxes? Not to mention that my household benefits 0 from our high taxes. I have a road that has only seen 1 plow all winter, and a business that was refused use of a town facility for absolutely no reasonable reason. People will be priced out of their homes if this keeps up. I myself will not be priced out, but will be compelled to move, as I could not stand to support such careless behavior.
3. **Share with us your comments, questions and/or concerns regarding the 2022 Town of Didsbury Operating Budget**  
I think a review of taxes needs to be done. This town is struggling to keep people and also businesses. People are upset and people are hurting, raise the taxes and you'll be seeing businesses and people leaving.
4. **Share with us your comments, questions and/or concerns regarding the 2022 Town of Didsbury Operating Budget**  
If what I'm reading is correct we could see our residential taxes increase anywhere from 5 to 20 percent. Is that truly a possibility? Does council need to consider adjusting the residential/commercial tax ratio? Is administration and council concerned residents will be priced out of their homes? Our residential taxes already deterred people from choosing Didsbury to live... I believe this will be a negative in many ways. If our taxes go up this year in any substantial way we will be forced to consider if the pros of living in Didsbury out way the high taxes. (I must say we have only had our road plowed once this entire winter... it is astonishing)
5. **Share with us your comments, questions and/or concerns regarding the 2022 Town of Didsbury Operating Budget**  
I am concerned about the prospect of having 20% tax rate. This would cause my family to have to sell our house and we would have to move to another community. There would be no other way. We would have to try and buy a cheaper house, or find a rental as the market is just insane. I understand increased costs, but inflation is high, gas prices are high, food prices are high, utilities are high. You're going to see a mass exodus of citizens if the tax rate is over 12%. It would be ruinous for the town. I urge the Administration and Council to work together and find a better source of revenue.
6. **Share with us your comments, questions and/or concerns regarding the 2022 Town of Didsbury Operating Budget**  
Not in support of a 12% property tax hike. What will these additional funds be used for other than general revenue? The roads are the worst I've seen and I don't see an increase in spending or a specific plan to address these road conditions.
7. **Share with us your comments, questions and/or concerns regarding the 2022 Town of Didsbury Operating Budget**  
Please DO NOT raise our taxes or distribution fees. We already pay an arm and a leg. If you feel that you cannot budget properly with what you have then please at least ask the taxpayers to vote on the issue.

Share with us your comments, questions and/or concerns regarding the 2022 Town of Didsbury Operating Budget

Hello. I am concerned with the 12% increase to Net Municipal Taxation. Didsbury already has very high taxes for home owners, and I do not believe we should be taxed more. Citizens are already paying higher prices with the incoming Carbon Tax increase, the sky rocketing fuel prices, the Bank of Canada increasing rates... Many people are already stretched financially, or are concerned with finances, due to the aforementioned and the impacts of Covid. Please look out for the townspeople; do not increase our taxes!

8.

Share with us your comments, questions and/or concerns regarding the 2022 Town of Didsbury Operating Budget

Family Rec Centre to include racquet courts, climbing wall and fully equipped weight workout area

9.

Share with us your comments, questions and/or concerns regarding the 2022 Town of Didsbury Operating Budget

Just wondering if there was any way to make a gym at the complex or build another wing off the pool side or at back in the parking lot off curling rink .. this town needs a gym .. other towns have there's attached to there complex . Or could the town use the old lawn bowling building by dog park ..not sure what it's called ??

10.



## 2022 Operating Budget Survey PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK!

Share with us your feedback regarding the 2022 Town of Didsbury Operating Budget.

I understand Equipment to outfit the truck, however small capital replacement plan covers many of these items such as Hydraulic Rescue Tools.
This Truck needs and must be reviewed. !! Blue Print shared with the public. <del>What is the</del>

11.

CONTINUED



Share with us your feedback regarding the 2022 Town of Didsbury Operating Budget.

The Fire Department Rescue Truck - quoted 735,000.00 dollars to replace. This apparatus has no pump, aerial, or water capabilities. This cost is astronomical. ~~It is not~~

The original budget for this truck has been bumped already significantly. Even switching from a commercial to custom chassis the price is absurd.

This truck should be closer to 400,000 to 500,000. That would at the price be a very great rescue truck.

What are comparables of other municipalities? Is this

Being outfitted as a "Heavy Rescue Truck"? If so....

Why is Didsbury paying for a Heavy Rescue Truck, when that truck would be serving <sup>50 percent</sup> ~~all~~ all of Mountain View County. That would be a speciality Apparatus and a bigger conversation.

I strongly advise we look at similar municipalities & City of Calgary, Red Deer, and Edmonton for cost comparison analysis. ~~Expenditure~~





## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

**Vision:** *The Place to Grow.*

**Mission:** *Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2022  
SUBJECT: Tax Rate Bylaw 2022-08 (2nd Reading)  
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Corporate Services

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### **BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:**

Council granted first reading to Bylaw 2022-08 to establish the taxation rates and penalties for the 2022 Taxation Year at the April 26, 2022 Regular Council Meeting.

Draft 4 of the budget is being tabled at the May 10, 2022 meeting which allows Schedule A of the bylaw to be updated and tax rates to be calculated.

There have been a number of adjustments to the bylaw since the first reading which are outlined in red font and strikethroughs. The significant changes are as follows:

- The purpose of the bylaw has been updated to include establishment of penalties.
- Certain definitions have been eliminated as they were not being referenced in the bylaw.
- A definition for the Vacant Residential sub-class has been included.
- A definition for the Vacant Non-Residential sub-class has been included.
- The minimum amount payable has been changed from \$50 to \$60.
- Schedule A has been updated to include the 2022 assessment values, requisition amounts and municipal tax revenues required based on Draft 4 of the budget; and the tax rates have been calculated accordingly.

Schedule A is subject to change based on decisions made by Council as presented below.

### **DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES**

Currently the Town has a residential sub-class – Vacant Residential which is taxed at residential rates.

ALTERNATIVELY, Council may decide to set a different tax rate not more than 5 times higher than the lowest tax rate. Vacant Residential land is property that contains vacant residential land held for the development of residential property. Typically such land is held by businesses. Businesses pay taxes at the non-residential rate. Should Council approve this alternative, it is recommended that the tax rate be set at a rate equivalent to the non-residential rate. This adjustment has not been represented in Schedule A that is currently laid out but by doing so, an additional \$6.3M of assessed value would be taxed at a higher rate and allowing for a stronger residential/non-residential tax split.

The Tax Split (between the residential and non-residential rates) may also be considered by Council. The residential / non-residential split is represented at 85.6% residential (1% less than the prior year) / 14.4% non-residential (1% more than the prior year). Council may request changes to the overall tax split during the meeting to facilitate the discussion.

Please see attached Tax Rate Bylaw 2022-08 for Council's consideration.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN**

#### **1. Economic Prosperity**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council grant second reading to Tax Rate Bylaw 2022-08.

TOWN OF DIDSBURY  
BYLAW NO. 2022-08  
2022 TAX RATE BYLAW

---

**A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF DIDSBURY TO AUTHORIZE THE RATES OF TAXATION TO BE IMPOSED AGAINST ASSESSABLE PROPERTY FOR THE 2022 TAXATION YEAR AND TO IMPOSE PENALTIES ON UNPAID TAXES.**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to section 353 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c.M-26 (the “MGA”) Council must pass a property tax bylaw annually authorizing Council to impose a tax in respect of property in the municipality to raise revenue to be used toward the payment of the expenditures and transfers as set out in the budget of the municipality and the Requisitions;

**AND WHEREAS**, section 297 of the MGA allows Council to divide the residential and non-residential assessment classes into sub-classes;

**AND WHEREAS**, section 369 of the MGA provides that Council must pass a supplementary property tax bylaw to authorize the levying of supplementary property tax in respect for which Supplementary Assessments have been made;

**AND WHEREAS**, pursuant to section 369.1 of the MGA Council has passed the Supplementary Assessments Bylaw, a continuous bylaw for supplementary assessment and taxation;

**AND WHEREAS**, the tax rate to be established on areas annexed to The Town of Didsbury (the “Town”) is set by the Orders in Council by which those areas were annexed to the Town;

**AND WHEREAS**, sections 344 and 345 of the MGA provides that Council may impose penalties on unpaid taxes at rates set out by bylaw;

**NOW THEREFORE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF DIDSBURY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

**PART 1 – TITLE, PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS**

**1. Title**

1.1 This bylaw may be referred to as the “2022 Tax Rate Bylaw”.

**2. Purpose**

2.1 The purpose of this bylaw is to:

2.1.1 Authorize the levying of a tax upon all taxable property shown on the Assessment Roll and a supplementary property tax in respect for which Supplementary Assessments Roll has been prepared; **and**

2.1.2 **Establish the due dates for the payment of Taxes; and**

2.1.3 **Establish the rates of penalty to be imposed for failure to pay Taxes by the due date.**

**3. Definitions**

3.1 In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires, **definitions in the MGA shall apply.**

**Arrears** means taxes that remain unpaid after December 31 of the year in which they are imposed.

**Assessment Roll** means assessment roll as set out in section 303 of the MGA;

**Current Taxes** means taxes levied within in the current calendar year.

**Designated Industrial Property** means designated industrial property as set out in Section 284 of the MGA;

~~**Designated Manufactured Home** means designated manufactured home as set out in Section 284 of the MGA;~~

**Farmland** means farmland as set out in Section 297 of the MGA;

**Machinery and Equipment** means machinery and equipment as set out in Section 297 of the MGA;

~~**Manufactured Home Community** means manufactured home community as set out in Section 284 of the MGA;~~

**MGA** means the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26 as may be amended.

**Non-Residential** means non-residential property as set out in Section 297 of the MGA;

~~**Provincial Assessor** means provincial assessor as defined in Section 284 of the MGA;~~

**Requisition** means requisition as set out in Section 326 of the MGA;

**Residential** means residential as set out in Section 297 of the MGA;

**Supplementary Assessment** means supplementary assessment as set out in Section 314 of the MGA;

**Supplementary Assessment Roll** means supplementary assessment roll as set out in Section 315 of the MGA;

**Taxes** includes all property taxes, business revitalization zone taxes, local improvement taxes, penalties, and unpaid costs, charges and expenses as provided in Section 553 of the *Municipal Government Act* RSA 2000 c. M-26 or any other statute of the Province of Alberta.

**Vacant Non-Residential** means a sub-class of property classified as Class 2 – non-residential, as set out in Section 297 of the MGA, that contains vacant non-residential land held for the development of non-residential property.

**Vacant Residential** means a sub-class of property classified as Class 1 – residential, as set out in Section 297 of the MGA, that contains vacant residential land held for the development of residential property.

## PART II - ASSESSMENT CLASSES AND TAX RATES

### 4. Assessment Classes and Sub-Classes

4.1 For the purpose of the 2022 tax levy and supplementary tax levy, all assessed property within the Town of Didsbury is hereby divided into one of the following assessment classes and subclasses:

- a. Residential
- b. Farmland
- c. Vacant Residential
- d. Non-Residential
- e. Vacant Non-Residential
- f. Machinery and Equipment

### 5. Allowance for non-Collection of Taxes

5.1 Pursuant to Section 359(2) of the MGA, for the 2022 tax levy and supplementary tax levy there may be an allowance for the non-collection of taxes at a rate not exceeding the actual rate of taxes uncollected from the previous year's tax levy as determined at the end of the year.

### 6. Levy of Tax Rates

6.1 The Chief Administrative Officer is hereby authorized to levy the tax rates set out in Schedule "A" on the assessed value of all taxable property shown on the 2022 Assessment Roll and Supplementary Assessment Roll and classified according to this bylaw.

**7. Penalties on Unpaid Current and Supplementary Taxes and Arrears**

- 7.1 All annual property taxes, local improvement and frontages taxes shall be paid in full on or before the last business day in August, and when any portion of such taxes remain unpaid, there shall be imposed, by way of penalty for the non-payment of taxes, or any portion, an amount equal to five per cent (5%) therefore on the first day of September as outlined in Schedule B.
- 7.2 In the event any annual taxes in and associated penalties remaining unpaid on the last day of September there shall be added by way of penalty, an amount equal to five per cent (5%) on the first day of October as outlined in Schedule B.
- 7.3 In the event of annual taxes and associated penalties, remaining unpaid on the last day of October there shall be added by way of penalty an amount equal to five per cent (5%) on the first day of November as outlined in Schedule B.
- 7.4 In the event any annual taxes and associated penalties remaining unpaid on the thirty-first day of December of the year for which the same are levied, there shall be added by way of penalty an amount equal one and a half percent (1.5%) per month as outlined in Schedule B.
- 7.5 Any penalty added to current taxes or tax arrears shall be added to and form part of the unpaid taxes.

**PART IV – GENERAL**

- 8. That the minimum amount payable per tax roll as property tax for general municipal purposes shall be **\$60.00.**
- 9. That Tax Rate Bylaw 2021-04 is hereby repealed.
- 10. **Effective Date**
  - 9.1 This bylaw comes into force on the day it is passed.

Read a first time on the 26th day of April 2022.

Read a second time on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

Read a third and final time on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

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Mayor – Rhonda Hunter

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Chief Administrative Officer – Ethan Gorner

BYLAW 2022-08  
SCHEDULE "A"  
TAX RATES

<b>2022 MUNICIPAL TAX RATES</b>				
<b>Assessment Class</b>	<b>Tax Levy</b>		<b>Taxable Assessment</b>	<b>Tax Rate</b>
Residential	\$	4,116,829	\$ 513,086,730	0.00802365
Farmland	\$	46,912	\$ 5,846,690	0.00802365
Vacant Residential	\$	51,200	\$ 6,381,140	0.00802365
Non-Residential	\$	697,341	\$ 77,081,090	0.00904685
Vacant Non-Residential	\$	10,192	\$ 1,126,610	0.00904685
Machinery & Equipment	\$	1,522	\$ 168,180	0.00904685
<b>TOTAL TAX LEVY</b>	\$	4,923,996	\$ 603,690,440	
<b>2022 EDUCATION TAX RATES</b>				
<i>(Requisitions by Alberta School Foundation and Red Deer Catholic Region)</i>				
<b>Assessment Class</b>	<b>Tax Levy</b>		<b>Taxable Assessment</b>	<b>Tax Rate</b>
Residential/Farmland	\$	1,274,227	\$ 525,314,560	0.00242565
Non-Residential	\$	266,543	\$ 76,895,000	0.00346632
<b>TOTAL TAX LEVY</b>	\$	1,540,770	\$ 602,209,560	
Includes an Over Levy	\$	2,225		
Requisition Total	\$	1,542,995		
<b>2022 MANAGEMENT BODIES TAX RATES</b>				
<i>(Requisitions by Mountain View Seniors' Housing)</i>				
<b>Assessment Class</b>	<b>Tax Levy</b>		<b>Taxable Assessment</b>	<b>Tax Rate</b>
Residential/Farmland	\$	175,442	\$ 525,314,560	0.00033397
Non-Residential	\$	25,737	\$ 77,063,180	0.00033397
<b>TOTAL TAX LEVY</b>	\$	201,179	\$ 602,377,740	
Includes an Over Levy	\$	900		
Requisition Total	\$	202,079		
<b>2022 DESIGNATED INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY REQUISITION TAX RATE</b>				
<i>(Property assessment and tax rate are set by the Provincial Assessor)</i>				
<b>Assessment Class</b>	<b>Tax Levy</b>		<b>Taxable Assessment</b>	<b>Tax Rate</b>
Non-Residential	\$	641	\$ 8,369,470	0.00007660
<b>TOTAL TAX LEVY</b>	\$	641	\$ 8,369,470	
Requisition Total	\$	641		

BYLAW 2022-08  
SCHEDULE "B"  
Penalties on Unpaid Taxes

---

Applied on the 1 <sup>st</sup> day of:	Current Taxes	Arrears
January		1.5%
February		1.5%
March		1.5%
April		1.5%
May		1.5%
June		1.5%
July		1.5%
August		1.5%
September	5.0%	1.5%
October	5.0%	1.5%
November	5.0%	1.5%
December		1.5%



## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.*

*Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

COUNCIL MEETING DATE	May 10, 2022
SUBJECT	Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Report
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	Legislative Services

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### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Please find attached the CAO Report for May 10, 2022.

### ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

An Informed & Engaged Community

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council move to accept the CAO Report for May 10, 2022 as information.





# CAO Report – May 10, 2022

## 1. Action Request report for April 2022 (Financial Services)

Please find attached the Action Request report for the month of April 2022.

## 2. First Quarter Report for Public Works/Engineering & Infrastructure (Engineering & Infrastructure)

### **Infrastructure Department**

Infrastructure focused on routine winter activities such as snow clearing for the numerous snow falls, training on how to prepare standard operating procedures and routine equipment maintenance. The department also worked on implementing a consistent work order system to capture the resources required for each task the department completes for the municipality. The work order system is in its infancy but the anticipation is that as the data compiles the department will be able to better communicate the human resource requirements to further develop the 5 pillars which define our level of service. The five pillars are Leadership, Workmanship, Stewardship, Planning and Task Execution.

### **Engineering Department**

Design work on the 2022 capital project set to replace deep utilities and install a stormwater collection system on 21<sup>st</sup> Street from 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue concluded this quarter. Tender was released to market and bids were anticipated to be submitted in early Q2.

### **Bobcat Municipal Buyback Program**

Recent procurement changes in Alberta have impacted Calmont's ability to maintain the municipal buyback program and the program has been suspended until further notice. This means that Administration is not able to proceed with Council's resolution to replace the unit. Calmont has indicated that they will know more about how the new system will effect equipment supplies in early fall. At this time the Town owns the current unit and no capital investment is required. Infrastructure will continue to maintain the equipment as per the manufacture's recommendations to ensure the unit can be considered in the fall if an opportunity to replace it becomes available. Pricing is uncertain at the moment.

### **Kumatsu – Tracked Skid Steer**

The Kumatsu tracked skid steer is annually "loaned" to the Community Services Division in the winter season. This allows the Memorial Complex to maintain snow clearing activities to match their scheduled activities and alleviates the demand on Infrastructure to prioritize the facility during snow clearing events. The CS division also uses heavy equipment to remove the ice following the arenas ice season.

This year during the clearing of the ice, the unit ceased to respond to controls, began leaking fluids and then stopped functioning. The unit has suffered a failure of its hydraulic pump.

The unit is used for specific tasks during the spring, summer and fall and is the Memorial Complex's primary tool for snow maintenance. It is a 2007 unit with over 2500 hours. The motor was replaced in 2010 and the unit has multiple components nearing failure (track tensioners & runners) with parts becoming increasingly difficult to source.

The department is currently evaluating the most appropriate course of action to recommend.

## Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP) Audit (Human Resources)

The Town of Didsbury underwent a Local Authorities Pension Plan Triennial Compliance Audit conducted by BDO LLP for the 2021 year. The purpose of the triennial engagement is to promote compliance with and confirm the accuracy of pension details being processed in the Employer Portal. I am pleased to report that BDO Canada LLP has finalized our compliance audit and it has been determined to be a clean audit with no exceptions.

**Action Requests Report**  
**April 2022**

# of  
Requests

**Administration**

**Municipal Enforcement**

**10 Animals**

Cat running at large  
Found dog  
German Shepherd running loose around community  
Not cleaning up after dogs  
Missing dog  
German Shepherd running at large  
Orange cat hanging around resident's property and won't leave  
Neighbour's dog keeps pooping along resident's fence line  
Neighbour's dog has been barking for 2 days  
Dog poop in Memorial Park

**1 Vehicles**

Vehicle parked at residence that should not be there

**3 Property**

Unsightly complaint  
Neighbour has a messy yard  
Neighbour has an unkept yard

**1 Streets**

Garbage being dumped in parking lot

**Noise**

**1 Neighbors playing loud music**

**Public Works**

**9 Streets**

Entrance into Memorial Park is rough  
When will street sweeping be done  
Snow plowing and street sweeping complaint  
End of alley has large pot holes that need to be filled  
Stop sign down and needs to be replaced  
Alley behind 23rd Street needs to be graded due to potholes  
15th Ave is in bad shape  
22nd Street turning into Sunset Condos is bad  
Gravel entrance into the elementary school needs to be graded

**11 RR 20 going north out of town is bad and needs to be graded**

**3 Water / Sewer**

Sump pump requirements  
Suspected leak near water line shut off  
Water leaking into basement

**1 Solid Waste**

Black bin replacement

**3 Sidewalks**

Sidewalk breaking up in Valarosa  
Stairs are hard to see at entrance to Curling Rink  
Sidewalk sinking on 24th Ave

**1 Property**

Markers on lawn

**2 Parks**

Trees have black knot rot  
Gophers in greenspace behind resident's home

**46 Total**



## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.*

*Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

COUNCIL MEETING DATE	May 10, 2022
SUBJECT	Council Reports
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	Legislative Services

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### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Council Members will give a verbal and/or written report on any business or committee activity in which they have participated.

### ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

An Informed & Engaged Community

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council move to accept the Council Reports for May 10, 2022 as information.



## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Request for Decision (RFD)

*Vision: The Place to Grow.*

*Mission: Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2022  
SUBJECT: Correspondence and Information  
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services

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### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Correspondence received from other agencies and departments of the Town, which may be of importance and interest, is being provided for Council's review and information.

### DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

Please find attached:

- Town of Taber – AUC Increasing Utility Fees
- Town of Fox Creek – AUC Increasing Utility Fees
- National Police Federation
- AMWWP Grant Application Update
- EMS 10-point Plan Update: May 2022

### ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

2. An Informed & Engaged Community

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept the presented correspondence items as information.



April 20, 2022

File: 100-G03

Alberta Utilities Commission  
106 Street Building  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, 10055 106 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2Y2

Dear Utilities Commission,

**RE: Increasing Utility Fees**

Please accept this correspondence as a letter of support in addition to the correspondence you have already received from the Town of Fox Creek, dated March 23, 2022.

The Town of Taber joins in the increasing concern across the province regarding the rising utility fees for both natural gas and electricity. This concern is being felt throughout public and private spheres, and we are urging the Commission to take serious note of the concerns herein.

Over the past two years, residents of both Taber and the province have felt the ever-increasing strain of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic coupled with increasing job insecurity and the rapid inflation of food, fuel, and housing costs. The rising costs of utilities have placed an additional strain on residents' already thin bottom lines.

It is important to note that the rising costs are not just impacting residents, but non-profits, small businesses, and commercial industries. Many of the aforementioned are in jeopardy of closing or forced to stop their services to our communities due to the increasing costs of utilities.

We as representatives of our community also note that it is wholly unacceptable that the rising costs of utilities have led to increased private profits as has been noted in the media lately. In our estimation, increased private profits seems to be a step too far given the undue hardship the public has faced these past two years and will likely continue to face unless the Commission takes swift action. As members of Council and representatives for our community's citizens, we believe now is not the time to be taking more money from the pockets of Albertans. Now is the time to be supporting Albertans when and where they need it most.

Alongside the Town of Fox Creek, the Town of Taber is urging the Commission to perform a review of the fees being charged on top of the actual usage fees all the while giving strict attention to the amount of profit corporations are making off of our residents and Albertans.

Your time and consideration for our residents, businesses, and non-profits is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mayor Andrew Prokop

Cc: Town of Taber Council  
Mr. Grant Hunter, MLA  
Alberta Municipalities  
Town of Fox Creek





March 23, 2022

Alberta Utilities Commission  
106 Street Building  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, 10055 106 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5J 2Y2

**RE: INCREASING UTILITY FEES**

Dear Utilities Commission,

There has been a growing concern in our community, and likely across the province, of the rising utility fees for both natural gas and electricity.

Over the course of the past two years, our residents have dealt with the strain of the pandemic, rising costs of groceries, rising gas prices, and job insecurity. Now they can add the stress of maintaining utilities in their homes to that list.

But it is not just residents that are struggling with these rising costs. Also greatly effected are the non-profits of our community and our province. Our non-profits offer us services that are greatly needed for our physical, mental, and social wellbeing however these services are now in jeopardy as they focus what funds they have on paying utility fees.

Instead of retaining funds for savings, for food, to pay rent or a mortgage, or to offer services that improve a community's wellness, people are being forced to pay exorbitant delivery charges to maintain utility services.

We at the Town of Fox Creek believe now is not the time to be taking more and more money from the pockets of Albertans, now is the time to support our people.

So, with the abovementioned in mind, the Town of Fox Creek would like to strongly encourage the Commission to perform a review of the fees being charged on top of the actual usage fees all the while giving strict attention to the amount of profit the corporations are making off Albertans.

Your time and consideration of our residents and non-profits is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mayor Sheila Gilmour  
Town of Fox Creek  
[sheila@foxcreek.ca](mailto:sheila@foxcreek.ca)

cc The Honourable Sonya Savage, Minister of Energy  
Todd Loewen, MLA  
Alberta Municipalities



NATIONAL  
POLICE  
FEDERATION

FÉDÉRATION  
DE LA POLICE  
NATIONALE

# Your Police – Your Future: Listening to Albertans



 [KeepAlbertaRCMP.ca](https://KeepAlbertaRCMP.ca)  
 [Keep Alberta RCMP](https://www.facebook.com/KeepAlbertaRCMP)  
 [@KeepAlbertaRCMP](https://twitter.com/KeepAlbertaRCMP)

RCMP MEMBERS  
**ALBERTAN**  
*at Heart*





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## What we heard

Through the NPF's community engagement sessions and online surveys with Albertans we heard loud and clear that the majority do not want a new police service, and instead want to redirect that funding to prioritize improving the justice system, strengthening social services, and increasing police resources. Participants felt that these targeted investments would bring better and more immediate results to address crime within communities.

## Background

In 2020, the Fair Deal Panel (FDP) recommended that the Government of Alberta consider transitioning away from the RCMP to an Alberta Provincial Police Service (APPS). The Panel's own survey showed that most Albertans do not support this idea, ranking it second last in terms of priorities for Alberta. Following the FDP recommendations, the Government hired PricewaterhouseCooper (PwC) in October 2020 to conduct a \$2 million report which was completed in spring 2021 and released publicly in November 2021, titled [APPS Transition Study](#).

Since December 2020, the National Police Federation (NPF) has conducted three rounds of public opinion research through Pollara Strategic Insights which have consistently shown that only less than nine per cent of Albertans support such a transition. This research has shown that

Albertans do not want to pay for increased costs and instead want additional resources to be invested into the Alberta RCMP to continue to reduce and mitigate rural crime and more funding within the Alberta justice system to tackle the issue of repeat offenders.

## Our community engagement

The NPF has been actively meeting with Albertans, stakeholders, and elected officials over the past year, all of whom have shared these same sentiments. Following the release of the APPS Transition Study, the Government continued to assert that the majority of Albertans supported such a plan: which is the exact opposite of Pollara's findings and what the NPF has heard. In response to this, the NPF undertook a community engagement tour of Alberta municipalities to both inform and hear from municipalities and residents on policing.

The KeepAlbertaRCMP Community Engagement Tour held meetings in [38 municipalities](#) from Pincher Creek to Fort McMurray with five additional [virtual sessions](#), and other meetings with stakeholders and organizations as requested by them. From the Community Engagement Tour, the NPF developed this report sharing what we heard from communities across the province and the questions they still want answered by the Government.



## WHO WE HEARD FROM



The KeepAlbertaRCMP Community Engagement Tour held public sessions throughout the province which were open to everyone. Significant social media ads, print and digital ads, and local radio commercials ensured that as many people as possible knew we were coming to their community and how to join. The NPF also held additional presentations with community groups, on request, such as Rotary Club and Rural Crime Watch, as well as presented to numerous First Nations Chiefs and First Nations members.

In addition to the public, Mayors, Reeves, Councillors, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and Members of Parliament attended these engagement sessions, as well as various other municipal officials and municipal employees. Many community organizations also attended our engagement sessions including Rural Crime Watch chapters, Citizens on Patrol chapters, and others who work to make the Alberta justice system safer and fairer for all.

## WHAT WE HEARD

Survey respondents and engagement session participants shared a great deal about both the positive aspects of the current policing structure and the challenges they have experienced with policing in their community. Participant views, challenges, and their need for more information on the proposed police model are outlined in more detail in the following sections.



The image above captures the most used words in open-ended responses across all surveys. The size of the word corresponds with the relative frequency each word was used. “RCMP”, “money” and “resources” were the most frequently used words, followed by “financial pain”, “judicial system”, “great jobs” and “utmost respect” - indicating the predominance of these sentiments. It is important to note that in most open-ended responses, 86% supported keeping the RCMP. Statements most often reflected their concerns with transitioning to a new police service, while at the same time highlighting the great job and respect for the RCMP.

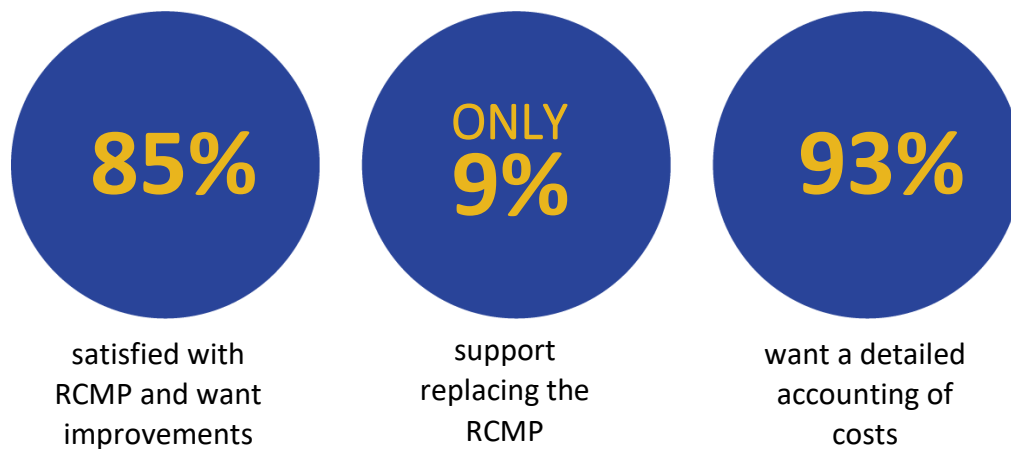


## **By the Numbers**

Since October 2020, the NPF has conducted three rounds of research through Pollara Strategic Insights, October 2020 (W1), April 2021 (W2) and October 2021 (W3). The NPF also conducted an online survey during the same timeframe as the engagement sessions to gain feedback from those who attended and those who were unable to attend. This survey was open from January to March 31, 2022.

SURVEYS	Number of responses
Pollara October 2020 (W1)	1,300
Pollara April 2021 (W2)	1,228
Pollara October 2021 (W3)	1,221
NPF: Satisfaction of RCMP policing (2022)	672
NPF: Policing improvements within communities (2022)	739

Across all research conducted between 2020 and 2022, the graphic below demonstrates the average response to questions asked. See Appendix A for further analysis of the survey responses.



## Municipal Support

In March of 2022, both of Alberta's municipal associations, Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) and Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA), passed resolutions opposing the Government of Alberta's provincial police service transition proposal. Together, these organisations represent all the 300+ municipalities across Alberta.

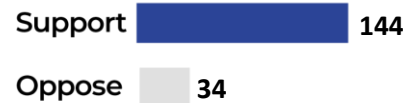
ABmunis passed a resolution that "Alberta Municipalities strongly oppose the APPS models proposed in the PwC study and develop an advocacy and communications strategy to advance our position.

Further, that Alberta Municipalities urge the Government of Alberta to invest in the resources needed to:

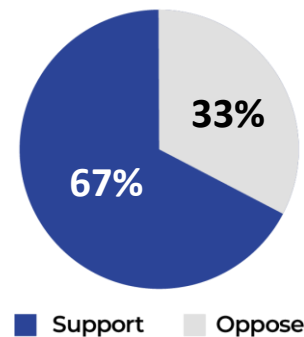
1. Address the root causes of crime (i.e., health, mental health, social and economic supports); and
2. Ensure the justice system is adequately resourced to enable timely access to justice for all Albertans."<sup>i</sup>

RMA passed a resolution that "Rural Municipalities of Alberta request that the Government of Alberta not create an Alberta Provincial Police Service".<sup>ii</sup>

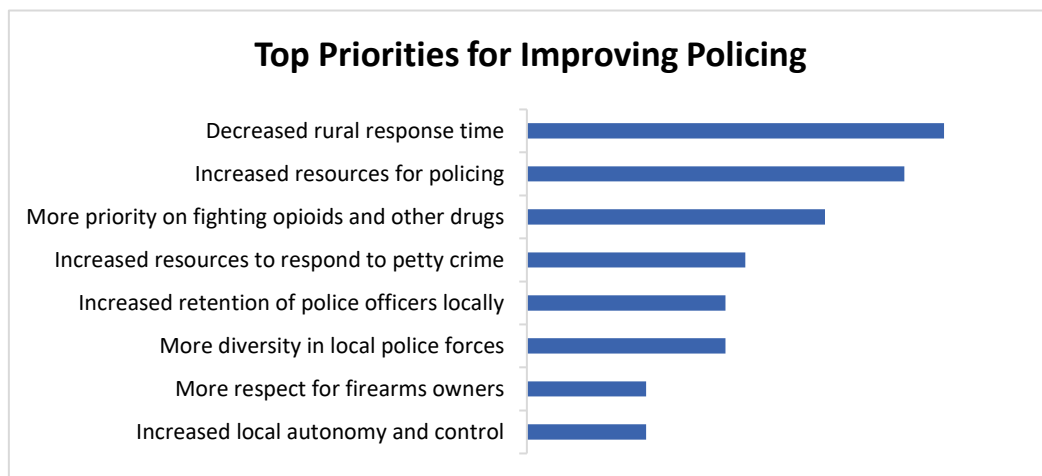
### ABMUNIS MOTION 2022



### RMA RESOLUTION 2022



## Priorities of Albertans



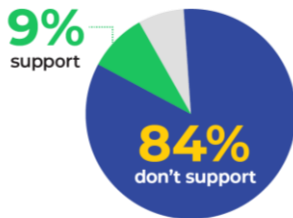
We know that there are improvements that can be made within the current policing model in Alberta. Through our surveys and during discussions at our engagement sessions and as noted above in the ABmunis motion, Albertans want the Government to decrease rural response time, increase resources for police and focus on fighting opioids and other harmful drugs that are on the rise within communities.

## Key Themes

We heard about the positive aspects of the current policing model and of the challenges experienced by residents and communities. While some aspects of the discussions differed across the province, we heard overwhelmingly the same message: Albertans do not support a transition away from the RCMP.

During engagement sessions, two main issues continued to be raised: associated costs and impacts to public safety.

### Albertans DO NOT SUPPORT replacing the Alberta RCMP



Participants also shared their frustration over the lack of basic information surrounding the potential transition from the Government. Many participants expressed that they had reached out to their local MLA and either did not receive a satisfactory answer or are still waiting for answers.

More specifically, Albertans noted that the challenges they face with the current policing structure are not just a result of policing, but a multitude of services that impact public safety including: the judicial system, lack of crown prosecutors, lack of community supports, reduction of mental health programs, and a need for better police infrastructure and resources - all of which the province oversees.

The following key themes emerged from the NPF's community engagement sessions:

## 1. Why is This Being Pursued?

### Frequently asked questions

**Why is the Alberta government continuing to pursue this?**

**What is so broken it must be replaced instead of fixed?**

**Who is going to benefit from this transition?**

Many attendees questioned whether the Government was pursuing a new police service for motives other than public safety. This topic arose as residents pointed out that the Fair Deal Panel's findings through surveys of Albertans showed a lack of community support. Many continue to feel that this proposed transition is going to move forward, regardless of what Albertans want. Albertans want to ensure that public safety will not and can not be compromised for any political reason. Many people expressed that they did not feel consulted and were not heard by either the Government or their local MLAs.

Participants also questioned why the Government failed to conduct a review of the current services provided by the RCMP to identify where resources could be invested to improve the current police structure and associated costs of doing so.



## 2. Costs

### Frequently asked questions

**Why isn't the Government investing this "extra" money to address the root causes of crime?**

**Why does the Transition Study seem to ignore the federal contribution?**

**Where is all this additional money going to come from?**

**How much will costs increase if transition timelines are delayed?**

Throughout the engagement sessions and surveys, participants emphasized their concern surrounding additional costs associated with a potential APPS. Many felt that while the Transition Study was fulsome in some cost areas, there were many noted "unknown" costs or areas where more analysis would be needed to assess the full costs and impacts. This has left participants with more questions than answers.

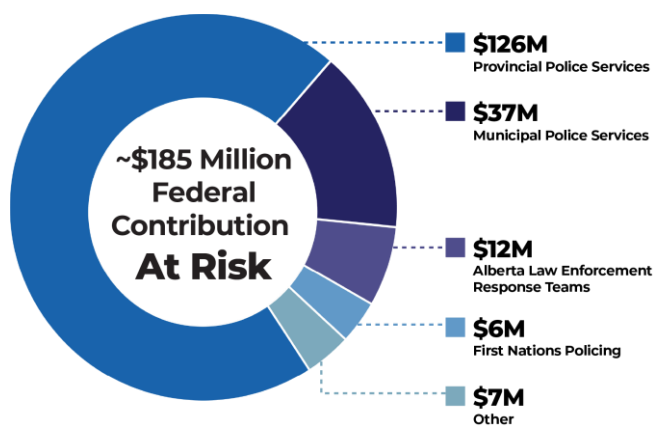
The most common question raised surrounding costs was "who is going to pay for this?" Attendees noted that the Government has stated that municipalities would not pay for the additional costs (+\$139 million per year, increasing with inflation) but has still not been able to state clearly to Albertans who would. We heard that participants felt that ultimately municipalities and taxpayers would be saddled with the increased costs and/or the fear that taxes would be raised.

**"Municipalities cannot bear to have more of these (police) costs downloaded to them, especially if there's not proof that there will be increased levels of service."**

– Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hnatiw  
St Alberta Today (February 9, 2021)<sup>iii</sup>

Costs continued to be the main concern amongst participants. Many found it hard to rationalize the proposed costs associated with an APPS and pointed out that the Transition Study noted that the APPS would be modeled after the RCMP. Many saw this as a waste of taxpayers' money which could be better spent in other ways to better address public safety in Alberta. Participants believed increased investments alone into policing will not fix rural crime, but instead a multi-pronged approach including hiring and retaining crown prosecutors and ensuring an end to the revolving door of the justice system would provide more immediate crime reduction.

We heard that some residents did not fully understand the current federal contribution that the federal government provides to the Government of Alberta to cover 30% of the policing costs for having the RCMP as the provincial police service. Many believed that the federal government would continue to provide the Government some money to cover policing costs.



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At the same time, participants felt the Transition Study was misleading because it didn't outline the Ontario Provincial Police or the Sûreté du Québec policing models and associated costs, which would be the best comparison to demonstrate potential costs for an APPS. Neither Ontario nor Quebec receive any federal contributions to cover their own provincial police services. This benefit is provided only to provincial partners who use the RCMP. Many participants also expressed that they felt the Government was not doing a great job at providing accurate information to MLAs on the topic, as some UCP MLAs had been telling their residents that the federal contribution would continue under an APPS model. During one of our sessions, a UCP MLA in attendance, also stated this misleading information. In addition, we also heard from some UCP staff who attended that they believed that the contribution would continue. Many attendees felt misled, frustrated, and expressed a lack of trust with the information being provided to them.

### 3. Oversight & Provincial Responsibility

Looking at the current state of policing in Alberta, there appeared to be some misunderstanding as to the role the Province plays in setting the priorities of the Alberta RCMP. Participants expressed that part of this confusion stems from false claims by the Province that the RCMP priorities are set by Ottawa.

During our engagement sessions we pointed to the various sections of the [Provincial Police Service Agreement](#) (PPSA), which outlines police services between the RCMP and the province, which state:

Article 6.1:

*"The Provincial Minister will set the objectives, priorities and goals of the Provincial Police Service."*

Article 6.3:

*"The Provincial Minister will determine, in consultation with the Commissioner, the level of policing service to be provided by the RCMP..."*

Article 18.1(e):

*"Each fiscal year the Provincial Minister will...provide the Commanding Officer with the projected annual budget for the Provincial Police Service for the next fiscal year, as well as projected budgets..."*

#### Did You Know?

**Detachment Commanders hold townhalls regularly to get input from the general public in their communities around policing priorities, along with general discussions around community safety issues.**

Some attendees found this helpful, while others still questioned why the Province would state otherwise. It was expressed that these two narratives are creating confusion amongst the public.

Municipal officials who attended the engagement sessions expressed appreciation for the hard work of Alberta RCMP Members and the difference they make in their communities. Municipal officials maintain direct and open contact with their local Detachment Commander through strong relationships. We heard that many municipalities utilize local advisory committees with their local RCMP as a way to express local concerns, identify crime trends, and to discuss and determine local priorities for the year. Many municipal leaders expressed fear that these strong



relationships would be lost through a transition, including local knowledge of crime trends and offenders.

**“I believe that the town of Millet has great relationship with the local RCMP detachment and would not support their removal from the Province”**

- Millet Mayor Doug Peel  
The Wetaskiwin Times (Nov 3, 2021)<sup>iv</sup>

#### 4. Staffing and Training

##### Frequently asked questions

**If Alberta has the money for a transition, why not use it to provide additional resources to the RCMP?**

**Where is the Government going to find that many officers in Alberta?**

**How would an APPS match the high-level of police standards of the RCMP?**

**How much would a training facility costs, and the staff needed?**

We consistently heard about staffing challenges with the current policing structure and concerns about how an APPS would better address these challenges. Participants noted that there is a decline in police personnel within Canada, which does create staffing issues within the RCMP and can impact crime rates within their communities. However, many noted that the Transition Study does not outline this issue and how it would be able to recruit and train the number of officers it would need to fully staff a provincial police service.

Many participants questioned if the current Alberta RCMP Members would transfer over to a new APPS. However, some municipal leaders pointed out that in the Government consultations they attended, the provincial government was citing that they predict about 15% of the current Alberta RCMP would transition over. This flagged a further issue with attendees on how the Government would recruit the remaining ~2,500 officers needed to form an APPS. During the engagement sessions, the NPF outlined that most of the RCMP officers would continue to stay with the RCMP and transfer to other postings, as we have seen in other jurisdictions. We then heard attendees note that the Government is highlighting a potential APPS as being local officers from Alberta, and with recruiting challenges and most of the RCMP officers remaining with the RCMP, such a notion would be impossible.

**“The RCMP are serving us well...I don’t see a lot of positives to a provincial police force.”**

- St. Albert Mayor Cathy Heron  
St Alberta Today (February 9, 2021)<sup>v</sup>

Another issue that was raised was that the current RCMP model allows for officers to move in and out of communities, which can be a challenge. While the current RCMP structure does move officers, most often these officers are relocated between communities within Alberta and not out of province. This still allows the community to benefit from the Member’s Alberta crime knowledge. However, not all participants saw this as a concern and praised the model as it allows for officers with various expertise and backgrounds to come into the community; stops political influence of officers in communities; and if a municipality wishes to retain an officer there were avenues to obtain the officer for a longer contract.





**“Lethbridge County Council and a majority of other rural municipalities do not support this proposed transition to an Alberta Provincial Police Service.”**

– Lethbridge County Reeve Tory Campbell  
My Lethbridge Now (Jan 20, 2022)<sup>vi</sup>

During our sessions we also heard that the RCMP has some of the highest training standards in the world and that a move to an APPS could jeopardize the quality of service they receive. The Transition Study also noted a two-tiered police model for an APPS with less fully trained officers. Many participants expressed huge concerns, especially in rural communities, on how this could negatively impact police services to some of the complex crimes they experience and how this would improve public safety and confidence in the police.

## 5. Improve, Not Replace

Communities across Alberta appreciated having both the NPF and the Government come to their community to discuss policing but felt that the conversation should not be about replacing, but instead on ways to improve the current policing model.

It was often repeated throughout the NPF engagement sessions that Albertans do not have an issue with the RCMP, but instead with the Alberta justice system that seems to create a revolving door for criminals to reoffend with little-to-no repercussion. Part of this problem comes from the shortage of crown prosecutors which communities want addressed first and foremost.

**“The issue with rural crime is not about the police force, it's about the justice system not performing well”**

– Edson Mayor Kevin Zahara  
CBC Edmonton (March 9, 2022)<sup>vii</sup>

We heard how the RCMP can better serve communities including better support for mental health calls, continuing to address rural response times, addressing delays in RCMP transfers, and increasing administrative help to ensure RCMP officers can be out on the streets instead of behind a computer.

## 6. Call for Consultation and Answers

### Frequently asked questions

**Why isn't the public allowed into the Government consultations?**

**How do we make sure our MLAs are listening to us?**

**Why is the Government pursuing this without consulting Albertans?**

Since the release of the Transition Study, the Government has undertaken limited consultations with only municipal leaders and key stakeholders. The public was not allowed to attend and even had their participation revoked if they were invited by a municipal official. We heard repeatedly from participants that they do not feel properly consulted by the Government on this matter. They were frustrated that the only consultation that is open to the public is a proposed online survey. We also heard from many First Nation leaders that they were not consulted and grew frustrated with this proposal and lack of communication from the Government.

We heard that participants have written letters to their local MLA, but many have gone unanswered, or the response received was vague and did not answer the questions asked, but instead only received a templated response.



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## Unanswered Questions

During our engagement sessions we heard a multitude of questions from participants that have gone unanswered by the Government. Albertans need answers to make an informed decision.

1. The proposed APPS transition will cost Albertans more than \$185 million/year in Federal contributions, plus more than \$366 million in transition costs. Where is this money going to come from?
2. With so many police departments struggling to recruit, and the Government assuming only 15% of Alberta RCMP would transition to an APPS, how do they plan to fill the other ~2,500 positions in just four years?
3. The Transition Study states that APPS officers would initially be trained in municipal training facilities (Calgary and Edmonton police services). Are these facilities prepared and equipped to train the ~2,500 officers needed?
4. The APPS report offers two models, with Model A offering half as many fully trained officers as the current Alberta RCMP. Why would the Government consider providing less than the current complement of fully trained police officers for rural Albertans, and for more money?
5. Why didn't the Provincial Government review the current Alberta RCMP police service model for how efficiencies could be made, and the cost to do so?
6. When will the Government be completing a true feasibility study to clarify the assumptions made in the Transition Study as recommended by PwC?

## ABOUT THE NPF



The National Police Federation (NPF) is the sole certified bargaining agent representing ~20,000 Members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) across Canada and internationally, including about 3,500 Members in Alberta. Certified in 2019, the NPF is the largest police labour relations organization in Canada. The NPF's mission is to provide strong, fair, and progressive representation to promote and enhance the rights of RCMP Members.

## APPENDIX A: Survey Results

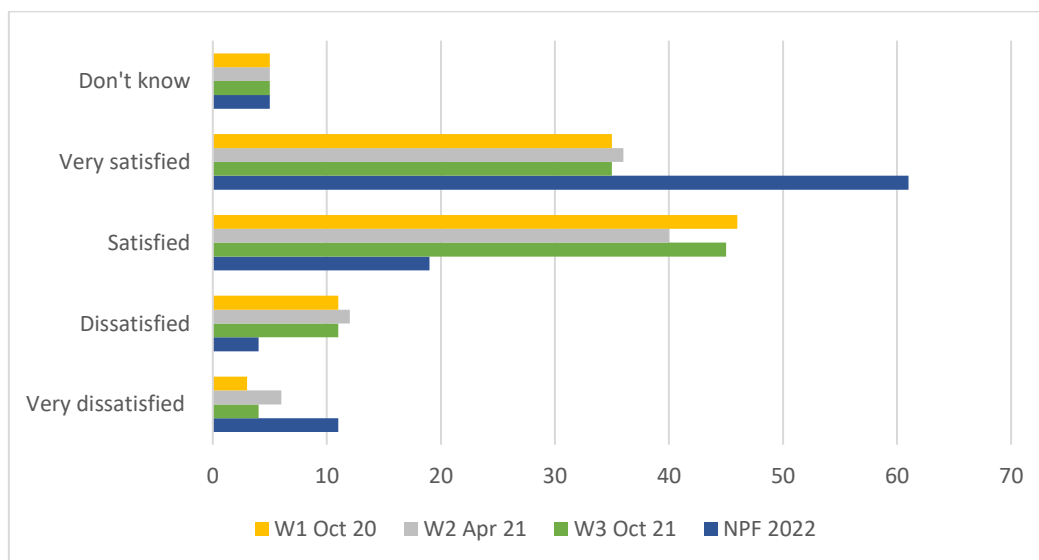
The following charts display the results from the surveys conducted since October 2020 and show a cross comparison overtime of the responses to specific questions asked.

**Table A1:** Surveys

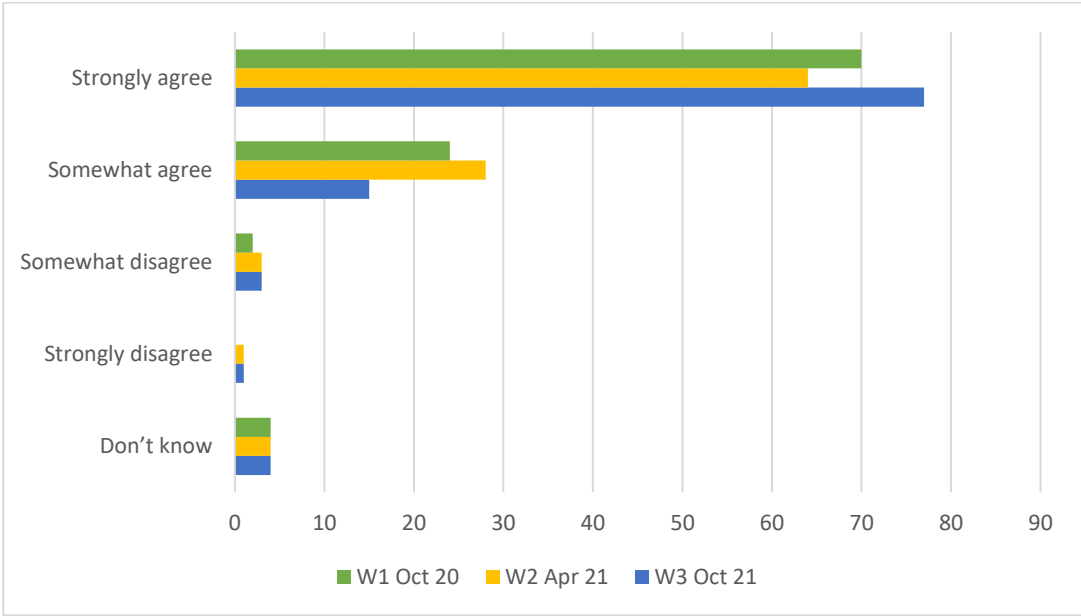
SURVEYS	Number of responses
Pollara October 2020 (W1)	1,300
Pollara April 2021 (W2)	1,228
Pollara October 2021 (W3)	1,221
NPF: Satisfaction of RCMP policing (2022)	672
NPF: Policing improvements within communities (2022)	739

Between January and March 31, 2022, the NPF conducted its own online survey at the same time as the NPF's engagement sessions to further collect information and feedback.

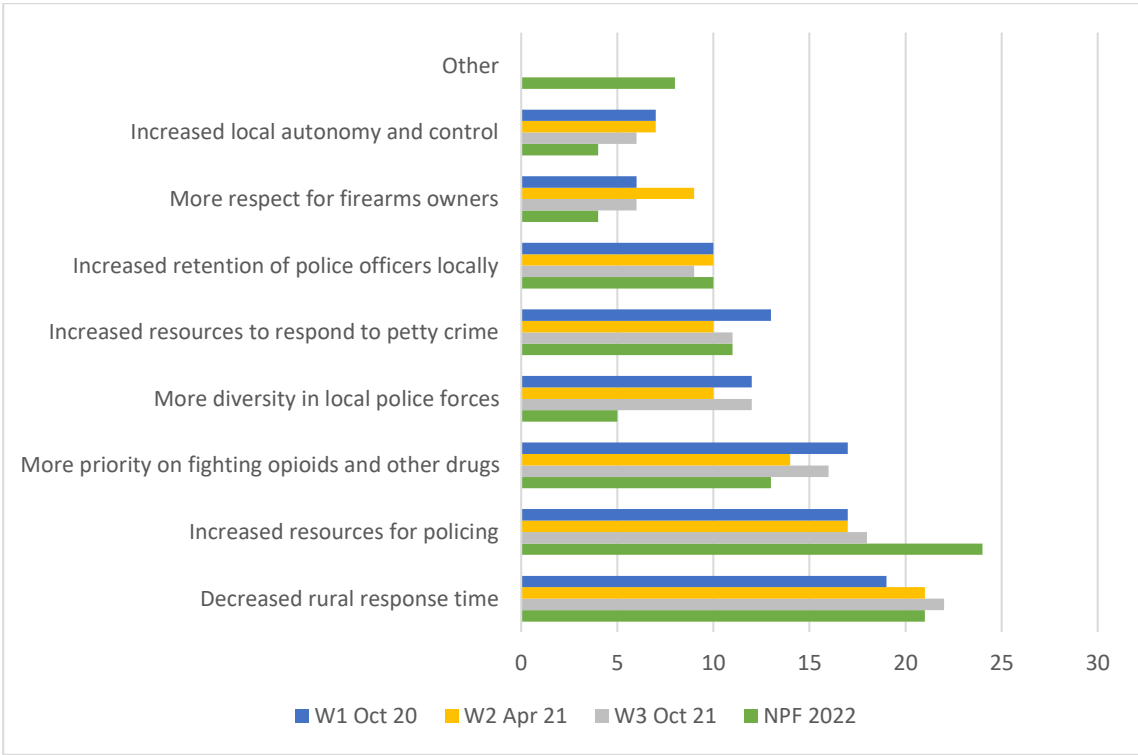
**Figure A1:** How satisfied are you with the RCMP's policing in your community? (4,421 respondents)



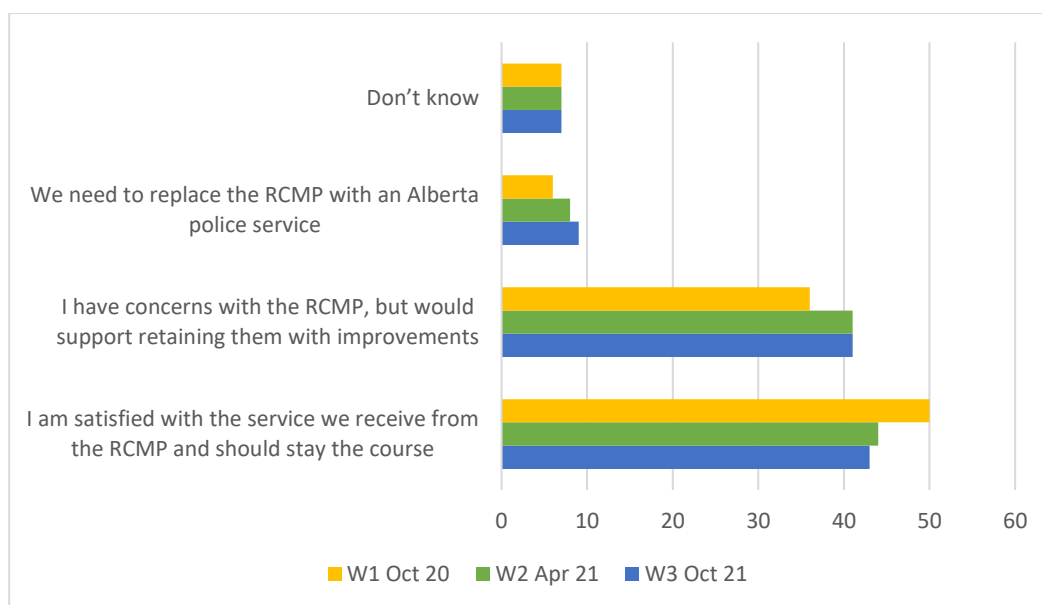
**Figure A2:** Before any changes to policing are made, there needs to be a detailed accounting of costs and impacts to service levels. (3,749 respondents)



**Figure A3:** What is the most important improvement you'd like to see in policing in your community? (4,448 respondents)



**Figure A4:** Which of the following statements best reflects your viewpoint? (3,749 respondents)



<sup>i</sup> "MLC Presentations & APPS position (RFD) now available." *Alberta Municipalities*. Mar 16, 2022.

<https://www.abmunis.ca/news/mlc-presentations-apps-position-rfd-now-available>

<sup>ii</sup> "Continued Support for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Alberta." *Rural Municipalities of Alberta*. March 15, 2022.

<https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/4-22s-continued-support-for-the-royal-canadian-mounted-police-in-alberta/>

<sup>iii</sup> Ma, Kevin. "Mayors cool to proposed Alberta police force." *St. Albert Today*. Feb 9, 2021, <https://www.stalberttoday.ca/local-news/mayors-cool-to-proposed-alberta-police-force-auma-heron-hnatiw-morishita-king-3358994>

<sup>iv</sup> Max, Christina. "Local leaders not backing provincial police force idea." *The Wetaskiwin Times*. Nov 3, 2021, <https://www.wetaskiwinetimes.com/news/local-leaders-not-backing-provincial-police-force-idea>

<sup>v</sup> Ma, Kevin. "Mayors cool to proposed Alberta police force." *St. Albert Today*. Feb 9, 2021. <https://www.stalberttoday.ca/local-news/mayors-cool-to-proposed-alberta-police-force-auma-heron-hnatiw-morishita-king-3358994>

<sup>vi</sup> Siedlecki, Patrick. "Lethbridge County not in favour of Alberta scrapping the RCMP." *My Lethbridge Now*. Jan 20, 2022. <https://www.mylethbridgenow.com/23621/lethbridge-county-not-in-favour-of-alberta-scrapping-the-rcmp/>

<sup>vii</sup> French, Janet. "Bill overruling local mask laws 'a precedent we don't appreciate,' Alberta municipal leaders say." *CBC News*. Mar 9, 2022. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/bill-overruling-local-mask-laws-a-precedent-we-don-t-appreciate-alberta-municipal-leaders-say-1.6379240>



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1560-WWP-IP

April 4, 2022

Mr. Ethan Gorner  
CAO  
Town of Didsbury  
PO Box 790  
Didsbury, AB T0M0 0W0

Dear Mr. Gorner:

**Re: Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership**

Thank you for your recent application regarding grant funding assistance for the New Reservoir project under the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership (AMWWP).

As you can appreciate a significant number of applications have been received under the AMWWP, and unfortunately the department is unable to offer funding assistance for the new reservoir. In order to be eligible under the AMWWP, the reservoir must contain 100% of the municipal flow. The proposed project is a secondary reservoir and therefore it is not an eligible project under the AMWWP.

Further information on the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership is available on the Internet at [www.transportation.alberta.ca](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (403) 340-5069.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denette Leask".

Denette Leask  
Infrastructure Technologist

## EMS 10-point Plan Update: May 2022

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a strain on the provincial healthcare system, and the first responders at AHS Emergency Medical Services have witnessed it firsthand.

EMS has seen a 30 per cent increase in call volumes in many areas, and all call types are increasing. With these high call volumes have come longer response times since last summer, and rising concerns about ambulance availability among many Albertans.

We are taking action to ensure that ambulances will always be there when needed – both now and in the future. We are putting more ambulances and paramedics on the street, changing practices to free up ambulances for critical calls, and increasing capacity in our hospitals to reduce transfer times.

AHS EMS recently announced a [10-Point Plan](#) to address continued system pressures and create capacity within the EMS system.

At the core of this plan – and every decision we make – is patient safety.

EMS has made several operational changes to help create capacity by freeing ambulances up for urgent patient care needs and allowing EMS to better manage continued high call volume.

The first elements of the Metro Response Plan (MRP) are underway, which sees changes to how some ambulances are assigned in order to help keep suburban ambulances in their home communities. It's early days, but EMS is seeing signs of community coverage increasing and response times decreasing over the last several weeks in several communities.

Another element of the plan sees calls being diverted to the Poison and Drug Information Service (PADIS) as part of the initiative to transfer low-priority calls. A project in conjunction with Health Link is also being established to further refer calls for secondary triage.

EMS has also stopped the automatic dispatch of ambulances to non-injury motor vehicle collisions, and since this began, EMS Emergency Communications Officers have already noted instances where an ambulance that would have previously automatically been sent as a precaution, instead remains in service to respond to urgent calls.

EMS also recently received budget approval to add new ambulances: five ambulances each in Calgary and Edmonton, each year for the next two years, for a total of 20 new ambulances.

Adding resources in the province's two largest cities – the areas of highest demand – will have a positive ripple effect on neighbouring communities. We are also adding coverage hours and additional shifts in other municipalities, including Lethbridge and Red Deer.

EMS has also documented improved responses to high-priority events in just a short time. This stems from allowing ambulances to be pre-empted from lower priority assignments and diverted to higher priority assignments when needed.

Similarly, we have two innovative pilot projects that help keep ambulances available to patients in urgent need: EMS has concluded phase one of a project which helps manage non-emergency inter-facility transfers (IFT) by transporting patients who do not need acute care using means other than ambulances (i.e., family, shuttles, taxi, etc.).



While data is currently being evaluated, anecdotal evidence has been positive and the project is being extended to all hospitals in Calgary Zone. In North Zone, the IFT pilot began January 9 at four rural sites and continues for six months.

Similarly, the Red Deer Inter-Facility Transfer Pilot Project manages low-acuity patient transfers between facilities with dedicated transfer units, freeing up ambulances to handle emergency calls.

EMS is committed not only to the well-being of our patients but also of our staff. We are deeply grateful for the dedication of our staff through the pandemic and several elements of the plan help improve patient care by boosting supports for those who work for EMS.

This includes the Hours of Work/Fatigue Management project to mitigate fatigue risk among staff, who have been going all-out for the last two years.

The Calgary Integrated Operations Centre is set to open in May. This initiative brings paramedic leads together with zone and hospital staff to improve integration, movement of resources and flow of patients.

Since January, EMS has hired a total of 66 staff: nine temporary full time, and 57 casual. We've also been meeting with learning institutions about hiring new graduates and potentially expanding training capacity.

We also know the importance of a long-term vision for EMS. That's why we're also developing a Provincial Service Plan for the next five years. As a first step, EMS Staff, our partners and the public have weighed in on the current state of EMS and we're analyzing the feedback collected.

The 10-point plan is a work in progress, but we believe it is already helping improve healthcare for all Albertans.

***Darren Sandbeck***  
***Senior Provincial Director and Chief Paramedic***  
***Emergency Medical Services***  
***Alberta Health Services***