



TOWN OF ONOWAY

ONOWAVES

TAX NEWSLETTER 2020

Mayor's Message

As I sit at my kitchen table, thinking about the change that is about to come, grass growing, flowers blooming, leaves popping out to greet the sun, I'm also thinking about how much the world has had to change due to the Coronavirus. Much has had to change right here at home and I want to thank all the residents for doing their part to adapt to this change. Thank you to every business that has adjusted to this change, thank you for staying open and keeping our community fed, lights on and homes safe. I know we have heard this a lot lately, but we are all in this together and together we will get through this.

Thank you to our home care and health care workers, public works personnel, pharmacists and retail employees.

Much has had to change at the town office too. While it may be closed to the public we are all still here for you, our residents. I would like to send out a friendly reminder that if you are not already signed up for electronic billing/payments please do so, or your payments can be dropped in the mail slot on the front door of the Town office. I also encourage you to sign up for our telematic, an automated messaging service, that will keep you informed as to what is happening around town.

Council and administration recognize that the ability to make payments, utilities and taxes, maybe hampered, and we have made adjustments in order to accommodate those experiencing financial difficulties. Please have a look at your utility bill and tax notifications for information, check out our website, or call the office.

Please be advised that Heritage Days has been postponed until further notice. The board members of the Onoway and District Heritage Society want you all to know that when it is safe to gather together as a community, they will try and put something together.

So many people have been affected by this, be kind to one another. Help where and when you can. Make a donation to our local food bank.

Stay safe!
Mayor Judy Tracy

As part of our COVID-19 relief program, for the 2020 year only
Taxes Due on Wednesday, September 30
And the 2020 budget was passed with a 0% increase in
municipal tax dollars collected

TAX PENALTY APPLICATION DATES

October	01	10% Current Levy
November	01	5% Current Levy
December	01	5% Current Levy
January	01	15% All Outstanding Taxes

NOTE: *These penalties do not apply to those enrolled in the preauthorized tax payment plan*
SEE LAST PAGE OF NEWSLETTER FOR PAYMENT OPTIONS



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have any concerns or comments you wish to make to Council members, please feel free to contact any of the members listed below:

MAYOR

Judy Tracy
587.783.7141
jtracy@onoway.ca

DEPUTY MAYOR

Lynne Tonita
780.239.3323
ltonita@onoway.ca

COUNCILLORS

Jeffrey Mickle
780.271.0640
jmickle@onoway.ca

Lisa Johnson
ljohnson@onoway.ca

Pat St. Hilaire
780-967-5050
psthilaire@onoway.ca

Council Meetings

**June 4, 2020
9:30 am
June 18, 2020
9:30 pm**

Below you will find some information on how much of your 2019 and 2020 tax dollars are retained by the municipality for municipal operational purposes only (does not include School or Senior requisition):

Residential Improved Properties (minimum municipal tax of \$875.00 in 2020)

2019		2020	
Total Taxes Paid	Municipal Portion	Total Taxes Paid	Municipal Portion
\$1,316.18	\$ 875.00	\$1,295.14	\$ 875.00
\$2,052.23	\$1,393.99	\$2,015.87	\$1,412.49
\$4,246.75	\$2,960.96	\$3,955.71	\$2,844.34

Residential Vacant Properties (minimum municipal tax of \$875.00 in 2020)

2019		2020	
Total Taxes Paid	Municipal Portion	Total Taxes Paid	Municipal Portion
\$1,413.12	\$1,187.90	\$1,456.30	\$1,239.37
\$1,276.06	\$1,062.44	\$1,314.47	\$1,108.23
\$1,250.56	\$1,039.10	\$1,288.09	\$1,083.84

Commercial Improved and Vacant minimum municipal tax on vacant of \$1,075 in 2020)

	2019		2020	
	Total Tax Paid	Municipal Portion	Total Taxes Paid	Municipal Portion
I	\$8,358.33	\$6,782.63	\$8,008.31	\$6,553.90
I	\$3,255.11	\$2,586.65	\$3,094.11	\$2,476.30
I	\$7,306.33	\$5,917.65	\$2,439.63	\$1,933.24
V	\$1,488.98	\$1,139.98	\$1,501.16	\$1,154.54
V	\$1,651.07	\$2,117.25	\$5,321.59	\$4,324.57

When looking at the above numbers, please remember that ONLY the Municipal Portion is retained by the Town to cover the operational costs of the Town.

The Town's 2020 Capital and Operating Budgets total \$3,139,377 of which \$1,242,777 will be collected through general municipal taxation for the purpose of funding the 2020 operational functions of the Town, and the remainder is made up of capital projects funded through grant dollars, reserves and utility rates.

In 2012 Council approved a minimum amount payable as property tax on residential improved property for general municipal purposes at eight hundred dollars (\$800.00). In 2013 Council approved additional minimum municipal amounts payable as follows: residential vacant at eight hundred dollars (\$800.00), non-residential (commercial) vacant at one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). In 2016 Council increased these minimum municipal payables to \$850.00 on residential improved and residential vacant and \$1,050.00 for non-residential vacant. In 2019 Council increased these amounts to \$875.00 and \$1075.00. In 2020 Council passed a budget with a 0% increase in municipal tax dollars collected and therefore left the minimum municipal tax the same as 2019 (\$875.00 for residential and \$1,075.00 for non-residential)

The total assessment for the Town of Onoway for the 2020 taxation year is \$147,061,110 of which \$36,660,820, is exempt and \$110,400,290 is taxable. When we say exempt we mean properties within the Town that cannot be taxed (approximately 25% of our assessment is exempt from taxation: schools, churches, arena, curling rink, halls, provincial or federal buildings like Alberta Health Services – Seniors facilities like Chateau, Beaupre and Seeley Manor.). While all municipalities in the Province have exempt properties, 25% is a significant number to offset.

The Alberta School Foundation requisition for 2020 is \$336,793, however there was an overlevy collected in 2019 of \$19,125 which means for the 2020 tax year the Town will collect only \$317,668, which will be reflected on your tax statement. The Town of Onoway's requisition is based on equalized assessment (our total assessment) and is requisitioned by the Province of Alberta, therefore we have no choice but to collect this money on behalf of the Province.

FIRES CAN HAPPEN! ARE YOU COVERED!

Did you know that the cost of fire suppression by the fire department for structure, grass or vehicle fire is payable by the property owner? In our area, we have seen structure fires as high as \$28,000 and wildland fires as high as \$12,000.

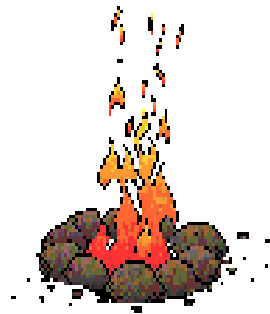
- Be sure to check your home insurance policy or talk to your insurance agent about what exactly your policy covers and how much it covers
- Besides inquiring about your home structure fire insurance, we encourage you to have a conversation with respect to wildland insurance (a grass fire that could happen that never reaches a building).
- Be advised that should the fire department be dispatched to your residence as a result of a home alarm, a false alarm or, for example, a passerby sees smoke and calls 9-1-1, you, as the property owner, will receive an invoice for these call outs.
- If the fire department is dispatched to assist Alberta Health Service with respect to a medical call you will not be invoiced. This is a free service provided by North West Fire Rescue through Onoway Regional Fire Services.

FIRE PIT

Bylaw 723-16

Must be a minimum of 3 metres clearance from buildings, property lines and combustible materials is maintained, it is placed on non-combustible material, and the flame height does not exceed 90cm (3.28 feet) above the fire/bbq pit.

To view bylaw visit www.onoway.ca



Fire Bans

Within the Municipal boundaries of the Town and when affected by the order of a FIRE BAN, residents must immediately proceed to extinguish every outdoor fire lit and every fire located on land occupied or owned.

For current fire condition and/or fire bans:

Visit www.albertafirebans.ca or contact 780-777-4688

Assessment Information

The assessment value amount that is on your notice is an estimate of the market value of your property as of July of 2019. The assessor used sales leading up to July of 2019 to establish the assessments. This is prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the collapsed economy and, unfortunately, can not be changed due to Provincial regulations which govern property assessment.

At this point it is unknown how the loss of employment, the closing of businesses, and/or other economic factors will affect real estate market values and, therefore, future assessed values. Assessors are bound by strict guidelines for assessment and will be ensuring everything possible is taken into consideration for the future.

You are encouraged to talk to an assessor if you have concerns about the assessment as it relates to your property value in July of 2019. On the back of your tax notice you will find more information, including contact information for your Assessor. Please also keep in mind that the assessor does not set the tax rates in the municipality, and therefore cannot answer questions about property taxation. Nor can they answer questions about the amount of services you receive. For tax rate questions, or questions or services, or for general inquiries please contact your municipal office.



*Onoway Council
&
Staff extend
congratulations
to the 2020
Graduating
Class of Onoway
High School.
We understand
Grad has been
postponed,
however the
student
achievements
have still been
completed.*

Congratulations!

*Wherever you
go, go with all
your heart.*



PRE-AUTHORIZED TAX PAYMENT PLAN

Contact Us

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



TAX AND UTILITY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Due to COVID-19 the Town Office is still closed to the public, however we have several options to pay taxes and utilities. These options include:

1. Pay online through your banking institution.
2. Place a cheque and bottom of your bill in the Town Office front door slot.
3. Pay by e-transfer to info@onoway.ca
4. Mail payment to Town of Onoway, Box 540, Onoway, AB T0E 1V0
5. **CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS NOW ACCEPTED!** Pay using a new option called OPTIONPAY. You can follow a link on our website to make payments on your tax and utility accounts. Please note that OPTIONPAY does have an added cost to the payor, however the payor will be notified of the cost prior to finalizing their transaction.



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

Town of Onoway has a automated messaging service to help advise all citizens quickly and efficiently in case of emergency and/or public notification (ex. temporary interruption of the water supply, tax payment deadlines, snow removal, election dates, town events etc.). This system allows us to notify residents by landline and/or cellular and/or SMS and/or email of your choice. The success of this notification depends on your engagement and participation. Please visit our website www.onoway.ca and following the link provided under the Emergency Services Tab "Alert and Notification System" to assure your contact information is added. *Please note that the Alert and Notification System is secure and resident contact info will only be used by the Town of Onoway to contact residents regarding important information.*

SIGN UP NOW

