



Town of Onoway

TAX NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2021

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TOE 1V0

PRE-AUTHORIZED TAX PAYMENT PLAN

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

PRE-AUTHORIZED UTILITY PAYMENTS

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

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR JUDY TRACY

Spring has arrived and I am guessing that most, if not all are excited to get outside! It will most likely be another season of yard work, gardening and spending time outdoors. For some, this is fine but due to the ongoing uncertainty of the days ahead it just may not be enough. While we do not know for sure when we will return to a pre pandemic way of life, we do know that we can do our part to keep one another healthy.

Having said that, it's not enough to just stay masked up in public and physically apart, we need to be kind and respectful of one another. As much as we don't like to think about it, our mental health is equally important.

Once again Heritage Days has been cancelled, however watch for news regarding the possibility of some sort of event happening in late summer.

We have all heard how some businesses have had to change or "pivot" how they do business, well I just learned the Baptist Church is going to try "Drive In" services! What a cool concept.

It has been a long year and a half and while I'm sure things will turn around, for the better, we need to stay strong!

Wear your mask, stay home when you can, get vaccinated, (I got my first shot), but most importantly stay connected!

Be safe Onoway!

As part of our Covid-19 relief program, for the 2021 year (also had for 2020):

Taxes Due on Thursday, September 30, 2021

The 2021 operating budget was passed with a 4% increase in municipal tax dollars collected, of which 2% is the new Provincial Police Funding as mandated by the Provincial Government (the 2020 budget was passed with a 0% increase).

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: penalties do not apply to those enrolled in the preauthorized tax payment plan

Council Meetings

May 20, 2021

June 3, 2021

June 17, 2021

Meetings start at 9:30 A.M. and are held at the Town Office. Any date or time change will be posted on the website. Meetings are open to the public; if you want to address Council you must make an appointment through the Town Office a week prior to the meeting.

Due to COVID-19 Council is meeting in person with restrictions and/or Zoom, and if public wish to participate or observe the meeting please contact the Town office. Thank you.

Feel free to contact Council with any comments or concerns!

MAYOR

Judy Tracy

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DEPUTY MAYOR

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COUNCILLORS

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ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

The assessment value amount that is on your notice is an estimate of the market value of your property as of July 2020. The assessment complaint process is governed by the Municipal Government Act.

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

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

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

TAX AND UTILITY PAYMENT OPTIONS

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

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

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.

The total assessment for the Town of Onoway for the 2021 taxation year is \$142,318,420 of which \$37,871,770 is exempt and \$104,446,650 is taxable. When we say exempt, we mean properties within the town that cannot be taxed (approximately 26% 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, 26% is a significant number to offset.

The **2021 Operating Budget** was passed with a **4% increase** in municipal tax dollars collected of which almost **2%** is because of the recently mandated provincial police funding. In 2021 this amount is **\$19,338.00, and it will continue to increase annually**. On a positive note, the Town has saved on its new waste/organics/recycling contract, where we were able to reduce the monthly utility invoice by \$7.63 per customer per month (\$6.60 for waste/organics and \$1.03 for recycling). This equates to a savings per year per customer of \$91.56. When you offset the municipal tax increase with the waste/organics/recycling decrease, we see an overall annual dollar increase for both taxes and utilities of **\$11,283.00 (1%)**. On the next pages you will find some comparison graphs showing the 2020 taxes (in blue) to the 2021 taxes (in orange). For reference, in 2020 the Town passed its Operating Budget with a 0% increase in municipal tax dollars collected. Previously the Town had a \$875.00 minimum amount payable on residential lots and \$1,075.00 on commercial/industrial lots. Alberta Municipal Affairs has given direction that the Town needs to have just one minimum amount payable, so we split the difference and then added \$25.00 to ensure every property picks up a portion of the mandated provincial police funding – for 2021 all taxable properties in the Town of Onoway will be charged a minimum amount payable of \$1,000.00.

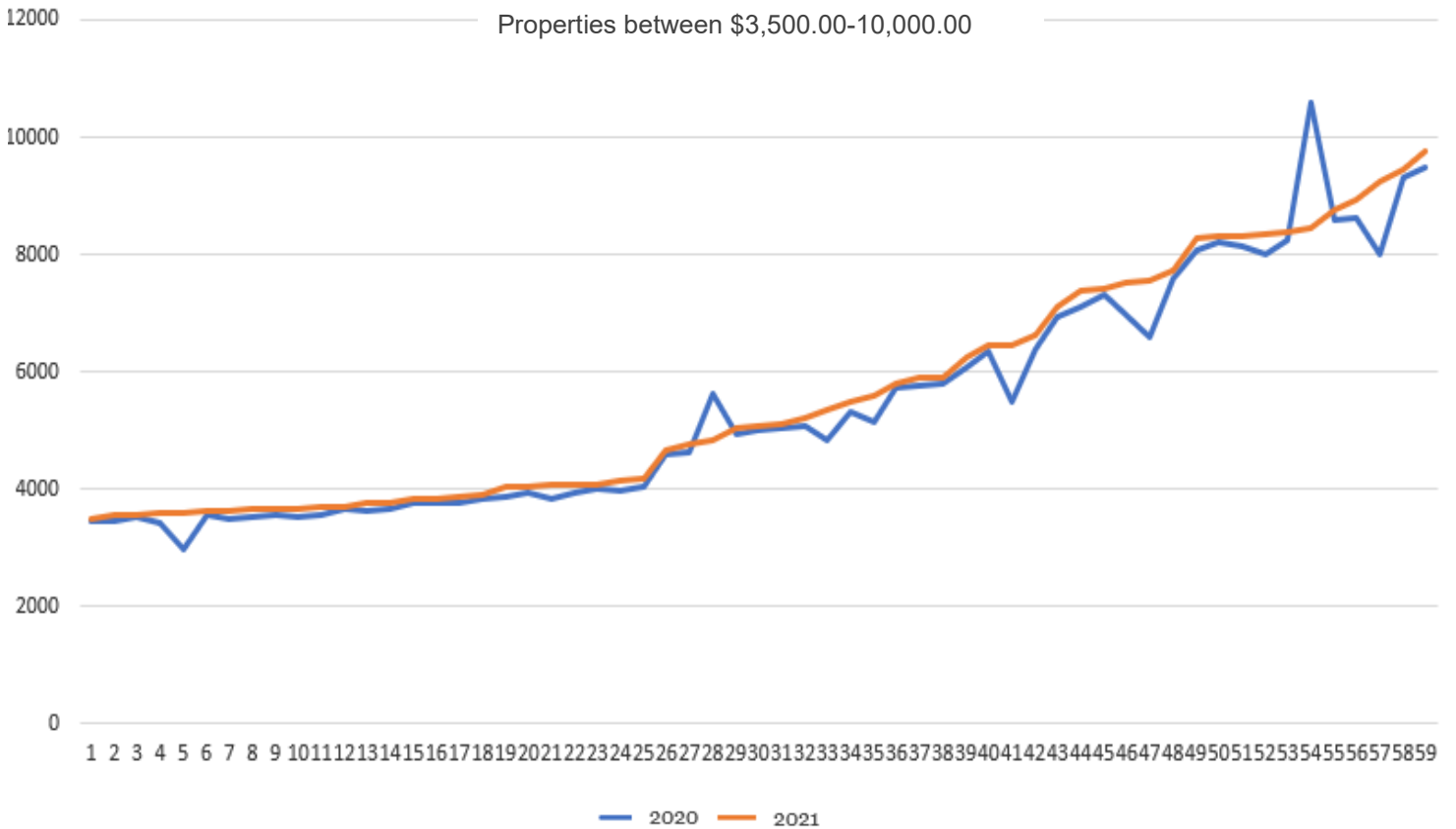
2021<\$3500

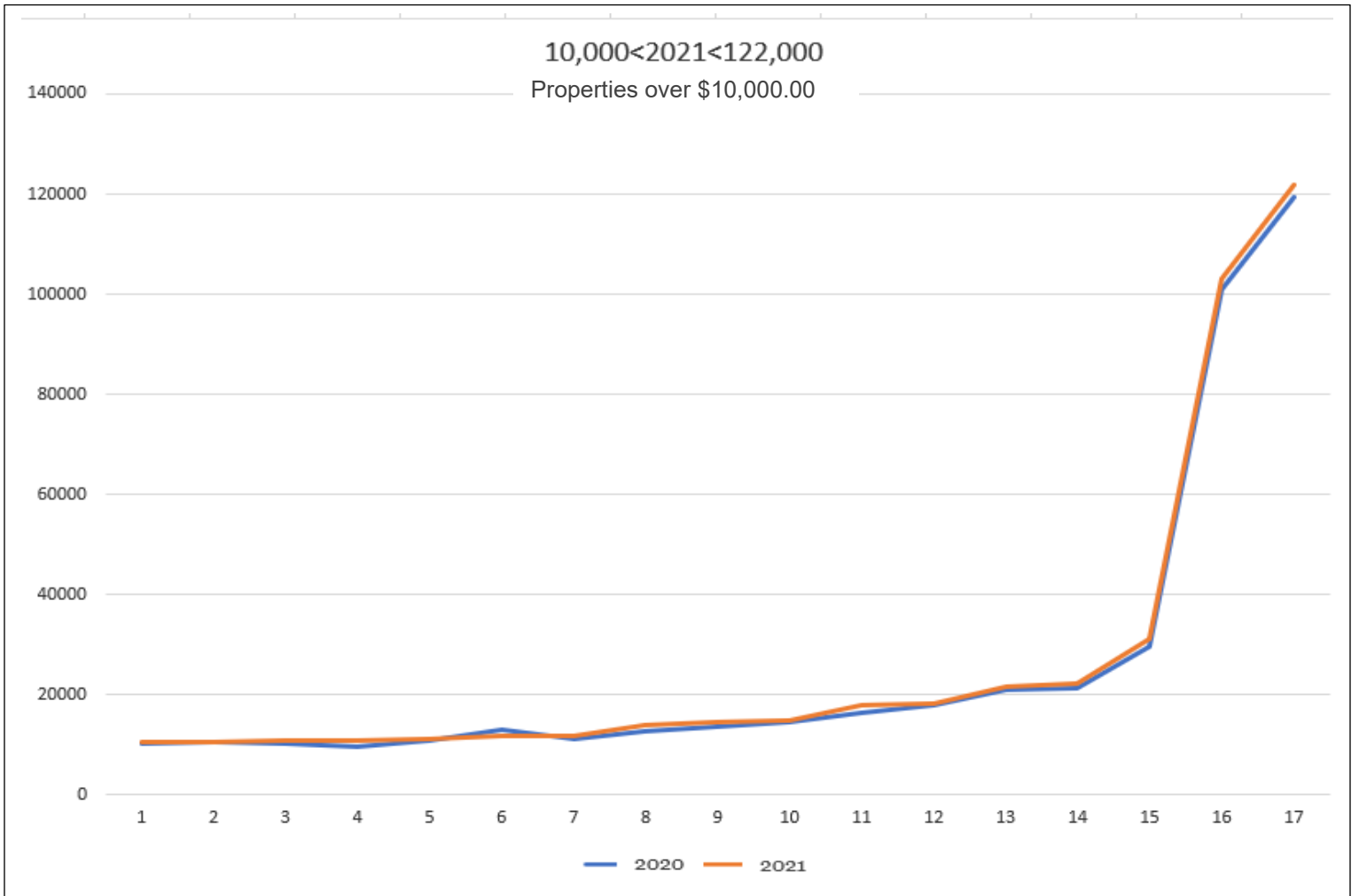
Properties less than \$3,500.00 taxes



3500<2021<10,000

Properties between \$3,500.00-10,000.00





2021 Capital Budget

Projects include:

Air exchange/ventilation at office	\$32,000.00	(to be funded through reserves, t/b recovered in large part through the fire budget)
Back alley project/patch paving	\$390,000.00	(funded through grants)
Valve/Hydrant replacement	\$ 75,000.00	(funded through grants)
Meter Reader	\$ 15,000.00	(funded through grants)
Lagoon Desludging	\$190,000.00	(funded through grants)
Riprap at lagoon	\$ 40,000.00	(funded through grants)
Pickup truck	<u>\$ 40,000.00</u>	(funded through grants)
	\$782,000.00	

In 2020 we deferred most of our capital projects to this year, so we anticipate 2021 to be a busy year for our public works department.

MAILING ADDRESS: 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.