



2018 Budget Community Open House

Last Year's Survey Results

Here are some examples of how last year's 2017 Budget Survey results were acted on:

1. The top priority that residents asked the Town to address was Recreation (including the Arena, Pool, parks, trails and maintenance of those facilities).
 - In 2017, the Town invested in the maintenance and renewal of recreational facilities with extensive mechanical upgrades to the Aquaplex. Council also approved a new Aquaplex roof which is being installed in the fall/winter of 2017.
 - Extensive work was also done at the Arena, including upgrades to the ice plant and a water and sanitary sewer line replacement.
 - Council also approved a Preliminary Design for a new recreation complex, which ensures the Town is positioned and ready to apply for senior government grant funding as it becomes available.





2018 Budget Community Open House

Last Year's Survey Results (Cont'd)

2. The majority of residents who responded to the 2017 Budget Survey were open to a small increase in taxes and user fees as long it was carefully deliberated and deemed necessary.
 - The 2017 Budget limited municipal property taxes to a \$27 increase per \$100,000 of assessed value on a residential property, and a \$36 increase per \$100,000 of assessed value on commercial properties.
 - Council approved a transfer of \$90,275 from the General Contingency Reserve to limit the 2017 municipal tax increase to the above listed levels.
 - Limiting property taxes wasn't easy. It required significant cuts to the 2017 Operating Budget, including:
 - ◊ Freezing wages in 2017 for all non-unionized Town staff, Town electrical employees and Council.
 - ◊ Suspending the Community Peace Officer program for 2017, reassigning Bylaw enforcement to existing Town staff and relying on the Ponoka RCMP, which the Town funds \$1.18 million annually, to provide community policing and traffic enforcement.
 - ◊ Eliminating the Employee Safety Officer position, and moving these responsibilities to supervisors supported by a new Joint Health and Safety Committee.
 - ◊ Minimizing Budget contributions to reserves for capital projects in 2017 with the goal of replenishing those reserves going forward.
 - 2017 Budget Cuts followed extensive cuts in 2016 to limit the property tax increase to 1.5 per cent, resulting in a very tight budget with no contingency for unexpected costs.