

VILLAGE OF GOLD RIVER



PO Box 610
499 Muchalat Drive
Gold River, B.C. V0P 1G0
Ph: (250) 283-2202
Fax: (250) 283-7500

2020 Financial Plan/Budget

A Message from Mayor and Council

To the residents of Gold River,

A couple weeks ago Council explained, through videos and social media, the process that the Village follows to prepare the 2020 Financial Plan/Budget.

At our April 6th Council meeting Council passed a resolution to direct Staff to prepare a Financial plan with a 7% increase in the taxes. Council also directed staff to retool projects to see how we could cut costs in the 2020 Budget.

At our April 20th Council meeting, staff presented a report stating a reduction in costs of approximately \$122,000.00. While some reductions were “one time” costs, a majority of the financial reductions were moving out items to future years. Council thanked them all for their input in finding these reductions. At this meeting, Council gave the 1st and 2nd reading of the budget/tax increase, as was done in previous years.

After first and second reading of the budget, we would, under normal circumstances, present the Financial Plan/Budget to the public for review and comment. With the requirements of COVID-19 physical distancing, we were unable to host a public input period for the budget. To deal with this issue, staff worked hard to come up with plans on how to get the budget information out to the public.

May 5, 2020

Staff posted the financial plan on our website and social media page, put a copy uptown in the windows of 'A lot of the Side', and made available printed copies to anyone who wished a copy. Staff also responded as quickly as possible to any and all questions posed by the public and provided a video platform to give council the opportunity to speak about the budget. Regardless of the lack of a public meeting, this is the most transparent with a budget any council has been.

Council members also tried to reach out to the residents either by talking to them personally or by calling them.

Council asked that if any resident had any questions regarding the budget to please either call the Village office, email, write a letter and drop off at the office, or contact myself or a Village Councillor. We received 10 emails/letters, with one having no comment regarding the tax increase. Two emails were provided directly to staff, and questions and responses from those emails have been, or will be, posted on the Village media sites shortly.

After reviewing the questions and comments from our residents regarding the 2020 budget, and after careful consideration as to the implications of the tax rate and Village services, Council has reviewed and adopted a 7% rate increase for 2020. On behalf of Council, I thank those that took the time to write in and express their feelings as to the budget process, and recommended rate, as well as speak to myself and other members of Council on the phone and in the public. These conversations are vital as they provide Council guidance when making decisions regarding the Village finances.

On behalf of Mayor and Council,

Mayor Brad Unger
Village of Gold River