



Town of Penhold – Council Media Release

Council Meeting ~ Highlights December 14th, 2015

2016 Budget was given operational and capital approval for \$ 11.6 million dollars. Chief Administrative Officer Binnendyk identified that grant funding and/or school requisitions may alter the budget should they come in substantially lower or higher than anticipated. Following Council's direction and working with municipal departments we are pleased to recommend this 2016 budget showing a zero increase on property taxes.

Mayor Cooper discussed the current financial difficulty being experienced throughout our province. It is important that the town work towards a restricted budget. This budget will address critical items that require attention and yet demonstrate how the town is working with our residents during this difficult financial time.

Thank you to fellow Council members and staff who worked so diligently to make this budget possible.

Council is moving ahead to have the manufactured home, recently acquired through the tax sale, made ready for sale. Authorization was given to have all unsafe structures removed from around the unit and some general clean up. Once the work has been completed this manufactured home will be sold by a local realtor.

Public Works Manager Nancy McAteer forwarded a report and correspondence to council on the recent in depth analysis on the well water Penhold uses. This report was compiled in light of recent concerns being made of the Town's water quality. Public Works staff worked for several days with a water specialist from Alberta Environment. Water samples were taken from a variety of places in Penhold and an in depth analysis was conducted on those water samples. **Conclusion:** Alberta Environment & Parks and Alberta Health Services concluded the following: **The Town of Penhold water source is high quality groundwater.** A copy of the findings is available on the town's website.

Councillor Sitter brought up a concern regarding businesses that specialize in short term loans. This type of business preys on people who are struggling financially and trap them with high fees and interest charges. This type of business does not build a community but rather is considered a predator. Can we find a way not to allow this type of business in town? Council agreed and requested Administration search for information on regulations associated with this type of business to determine how to address it in Penhold.

Gallery Questions:

What are the Policing boundaries in Penhold? Mayor Cooper identified that the Town of Penhold is patrolled through the Innisfail RCMP Detachment. It is important that we continue to encourage residents to call in suspicious activity. Phone the detachment at 403-227-3342 or 911 during off hours or in an emergency.

December 28th Regular Council Meeting has been canceled.

On behalf of Mayor Cooper, Town Council and Staff we wish you and your Family a Very Merry Christmas and a restful Holiday Season.

For complete reports and information on this meeting please visit the Town of Penhold Website http://www.townofpenhold.ca/Council_Briefing.php

Council Meetings:

2nd & 4th Mondays of each month starting at 6:00PM. They are open to the public. Questions are welcomed at the end of each meeting.

For further information:

Mayor Dennis Cooper, Town of Penhold
403.318.2046/403.886.5191