



The Board Reports

Regional District of Central Okanagan
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Highlights of the Special Regional Board Meeting – Nov. 21, 2000

Setting the Budget for the Year 2001

Depending on where you live in the Regional District, residents can expect a varied impact on their tax notices for 2001. The Regional Board gave approval to the Year 2001 Provisional Budget at their special meeting on Tuesday, November 21st. At the meeting, the Board reviewed all aspects of our operations, and the funding required to maintain our existing level of services.

Overall, the budget provides for some increases in the areas of community safety and the environment, as well as the inflationary costs of maintaining current levels of service.

New for Year 2001

Any tax increases are primarily due to rate increases for natural gas and power, and increases from other agencies such as SIR and the Okanagan Basin Water Board. The following Regional District programs also require an increase:

- Regional Rescue Service – additional half time salary in Fire Dispatch
- Crime Stoppers – additional full time staff as previously approved by the Board
- Victim Witness Services – increased part time staff from three days per week to four days per week
- Transportation Demand Management – added \$35,000 for a part time Communications/Marketing Assistant to help promote alternatives and improve air quality.
- Recycling Program – increased to reflect a full year of the Blue Bag Curbside Recycling Program. The program only ran for 6 months in the year 2000.
- Okanagan Water Basin Board – increased by \$221,141 as approved by the Water Board to pay for new sewer projects in Lake Country, Peachland, and Summerland.
- Okanagan Library Board – increased by

\$45,944 as requested by the Okanagan Regional Library Board

What the Impact will be on a Home Valued at \$160,000

Includes Taxes for Regional District purposes and all other agencies, such as SIR, Library, etc.	
Kelowna	\$2.45
Peachland	\$-3.51
Lake Country	\$2.77
Area G North	\$7.27
Area G South	\$22.25
Westbank	\$20.95
Area I	\$8.24

How this Compares to 2000

Tax Increase/Decrease by Area		
	Taxes for Regional District Purposes (does not include taxes required for other agencies such as Water Board, SIR and Library)	Total Taxes (includes taxes for Regional District purposes & all other agencies)
Kelowna	1.57 %	5.23%
Peachland	-5.46 %	-3.83%
Lake Country	0.81 %	4.08%
Area G North	2.36 %	4.74%
Area G South	5.67 %	7.41%
Westbank	4.32 %	5.50%
Area I	1.56 %	3.83%

How this Compares to 2000 - Continued

While some increase is due to Regional District programs and services, the majority of increases

are due to increases in utility fees, and increases from other agencies, such as the Okanagan Basin Water Board, the Sterile Insect Release program, and the Okanagan Regional Library.

The increase for residents in Area 'G' South (Lakeview Heights, West Kelowna Estates area) and Area 'Westbank' are due to a new ice plant and the required building renovations needed at the Mount Boucherie Recreation Complex.

About the Provisional Budget

Throughout the year, the Regional Board will give approval to various programs and services, as deemed necessary. Each year the funding for new and existing programs and services is included in the Provisional Budget reviewed by the Regional Board. Once the Provisional budget is approved, some fine-tuning will be done before the Board gives final approval, by March of the following year. Recently, the Local Government Act, the legislation that local government must follow in conducting their business, has been changed. In future years the Regional District will provide five-year operational budgets.

About Your Regional District Taxes

Your Regional District property taxes provide for necessary services such as sewer, water, and landfills for the 10,000 homes and businesses located within the Electoral Areas. They also provide for regional services, such as regional parks, 911, and recycling for the Electoral Areas and the member municipalities of Kelowna, Peachland, and Lake Country.

The amount of property taxes you pay for Regional District services varies throughout the region according to the type and level of service provided to each area.

The Regional District also coordinates funding for other agencies such as the Regional Hospital District. Your property taxes fund a 40% share of hospital facility construction and purchase of major equipment.

For more information

For more information on Regional District finances, visit our web site at www.regionaldistrict.com
Or contact the Finance Department at 868-5242.