



The Firefighters Christmas Toy Drive was once again a great success, thanks to the generosity of the citizens of Hanna & District.

Seasonal Thank You's

300+ diners enjoyed turkey dinner on Christmas Day. We extend a big Thank You to Karin Miller and her volunteers for making this happen.



Live the Lifestyle

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Happy New Year



On behalf of Council, Happy New Year and all the best to everyone. I trust that everyone was able to enjoy some quality family time and recharge their batteries for a New Year. This recent cold snap has certainly showed us we are in winter, but it will be important to get some significant moisture before the spring.

On that note the province has asked all municipalities to make some contingency plans in regards to potable water with the lack of snowfall and the drought the Province saw in 2023. This plan may put restrictions on watering of lawns, gardens, etc.

Council approved their 2024 budget at their January 9, 2024, meeting. This approval followed two separate budget meetings and with costs increasing for all goods and services Council has made the decision to approve a 2% Municipal Tax Increase. Please note this is the Municipal portion of the taxes collected and we are waiting to see the requisitions from the province for the school portion and Acadia Foundation for the Seniors Housing Requisition of which the Town has no control over. The budget will be reviewed again in the spring prior to setting the tax rate.

“ we are being asked to plan for possible water restrictions ”

This 2% increase will be the first increase in Municipal Tax since 2018 and will bring the amount collected closer to the Municipal Tax

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Happy New Year con't.

collected in 2020 but still under the municipal tax collected in 2018 & 2019. Below please find the Municipal Tax Revenue Collected since 2018:

2018 \$2,877,924	2019 \$2,873,373
2020 \$2,840,599	2021 \$2,793,684
2022 \$2,793,640	2023 \$2,798,138
2024 \$2,855,101	

January 1, 2024, is the date the Town of Hanna Land Use Bylaw comes into effect so prior to purchasing a property, building new or an addition, please feel free contacting the office and confirming the requirements for the land use district. The Land Use Bylaw is also on the Town of Hanna website if you wish to review on your own.

Remember to reach out to me with any concerns, issues or topics regarding the governance and operations of the Town of Hanna.

Respectfully,
Danny Povaschuk, Mayor

PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT PLAN

January happens to be the best month to take advantage of monthly pre-authorized tax payments. No fees! No penalties! Avoid unnecessary penalties

Projected Revenues for 2024

\$ 2,855,101	Tax revenue 2% tax increase	\$ 428,100	Waste fees collected
\$ 514,300	Franchise fees	\$ 92,800	FCSS Provincial grant
\$ 262,000	Return on investment	\$ 15,300	New Horizons Grant Senior's initiatives
\$ 15,000	Penalties on property tax	\$ 18,000	Cemetery
\$ 8,400	Lease revenue (rental spaces)	\$ 97,200	Swimming Pool
\$ 600,000	Industrial tax transfer from Special Areas	\$ 89,200	Arena
\$ 305,700	Provincial municipal operating grant	\$ 58,000	Curling Rink
\$ 579,831	Provincial municipal capital grant	\$ 4,300	Ball Diamonds
\$ 160,198	Build Canada Fund (former Federal gas tax)	\$ 100,000	Skatepark Upgrade
\$ 187,000	Recreation grant from Special Areas	\$ 2,500	Soccer Fields
\$ 44,500	Summer employment grants	\$ 94,606	Fox Lake Park
\$ 5,700	Town's share of RCMP fines	\$ 17,435	Summer programs
\$ 101,000	Fire calls billed to others	\$ 85,476	Centennial Place
\$ 2,000	Japanese exchange program	\$ 33,530	Community Centre
\$ 18,000	Business licenses	\$ 2,900	Lions Hall
\$ 4,700	Dog licenses	\$ 1,923,946	Draw from reserve
\$ 8,600	Airport rental		deferred revenue and grant funds
\$ 1,428,900	Water & sewer fees collected		

More details can be found in the budget document found at hanna.ca/budget

2024 Budget Approved

Council approved the 2024 operating and capital budgets at their Jan 9 Council meeting. This approval followed budget meetings held on Nov 28 and Dec 14, 2023. As part of the budget process Council also accepted the proposed 2025-28 operating and capital budgets for information.

The budget for 2024 may be adjusted in the spring following receipt of confirmed grant funding, property assessment figures and requisitions from the various requisition bodies. Any adjustments required will be approved by Council prior to setting the 2024 tax rates. The 2024 budget is balanced and includes operating expenses of \$ 8,811,791 and capital expenses of \$ 6,919,455. To cover these expenses, revenue from grants, taxes, transfers and user fees is expected to total \$ 15,731,247.

Expense Summary 2024

\$ 98,100	Council honorariums & per diems	\$ 7,050	Family resource worker program
\$ 27,700	Council travel & subsistence	\$ 30,000	Family & marriage support
\$ 5,600	Council technology and training	\$ 5,000	Lynks program guide
\$ 123,225	Contribution to Hanna Medical Clinic	\$ 4,675	Healthy Families initiative
\$ 1,300	Roundhouse Society grant in lieu of tax	\$ 15,000	Canada Day including fireworks
\$ 13,000	Staff travel & training	\$ 7,000	Volunteer & Seniors appreciation
\$ 7,000	Museum operating grant	\$ 10,000	Music in the Park
\$ 9,800	Museum power & gas	\$ 15,000	New Horizons - Senior initiative
\$ 117,010	Library operation	\$ 52,100	Community Services Coordinator contract
\$ 141,100	Natural Gas for Town facilities	\$ 45,000	Harvest Sky Economic Development Corp.
\$ 311,910	Power for Town facilities	\$ 3,400	Palliser Economic Partnership
\$ 100,750	Water and sewer for facilities & parks	\$ 4,000	Misc marketing and promotion
\$ 85,100	Petroleum	\$ 3,400	Palliser Economic Partnership membership
\$ 149,261	Insurance	\$ 19,790	Visitor Information Centre
\$ 141,283	Professional & contracted services	\$ 3,000	Community Services Board grants
\$ 44,400	Palliser Regional Municipal Services	\$ 4,200	Facility booking software
\$ 10,000	Demolition incentive	\$ 10,000	Project management (rec projects)
\$ 6,000	Storefront improvement incentive	\$ 255,700	Swimming Pool operation
\$ 10,000	Tax incentive	\$ 359,190	Arena operation
\$ 50,400	Assessor contract	\$ 3,000	Outdoor LED lights at parks shop
\$ 20,000	CAO Recruitment	\$ 114,150	Curling rink operation (subsidy \$19,000)
\$ 5,000	Japanese Exchange Program	\$ 32,060	Ball diamonds operation
\$ 148,000	Policing (increased by \$52,000)	\$ 108,620	Fox Lake Park operation
\$ 101,300	Fire Fighter remuneration	\$ 306,790	Parks
\$ 36,400	Fire Chief and Emerg. Mgmt. contract	\$ 39,060	Summer program
\$ 34,840	Municipal Enforcement Officer contract	\$ 10,970	Spray Park
\$ 10,400	Development Officer contract	\$ 32,800	King Hunter Park
\$ 10,000	Harvest Sky Animal Rescue operating grant	\$ 12,470	Soccer fields
\$ 100,000	Sidewalk replacement program	\$ 208,540	Centennial Place operation
\$ 60,000	Pavement patching	\$ 9,000	Fitness Equipment
\$ 124,900	Streetlight power	\$ 86,378	Community Centre
\$ 911,900	Water charges by commission	\$ 7,770	Lions Hall operation
\$ 35,000	Water line repairs and maintenance	\$ 1,174,509	Total transfer to reserve made up of:
\$ 25,000	Sanitary lines video inspection	\$ 202,700	Streets & roads from
\$ 20,000	Manhole repairs	\$ 100,000	Water and sewer reserve
\$ 25,000	Lift station maintenance	\$ 90,000	Recreation reserve
\$ 75,400	Residential waste collection	\$ 41,780	Grader
\$ 334,400	Big Country Waste Commission	\$ 740,029	Anticipated Provincial & Federal grants

2024 Budgeted Capital Projects

\$ 17,600	Fire fighter bunker gear	\$ 15,000	Heater for jr. olympic pool.
\$ 45,000	Fire fighter portable radios and pagers	\$ 25,000	Bleacher seating in arena
\$ 342,000	Fire fighter breathing apparatus packs	\$ 20,000	Curling Rink west wall repair
\$ 60,000	1/2 ton truck	\$ 20,000	Dump truck
\$ 180,000	Loader - replace 2009 model	\$ 100,000	Skatepark Upgrades
\$5,779,885*	Downtown infrastructure project	\$ 9,000	Water tank & pump for parks
\$ 220,000	Plow Truck - replace 2000 model	\$ 10,000	Water diversion (Library north side)
\$ 5,000	Replace ice cream freezer at VIC		

* means that these projects are grant dependent

Fun and Free

There are many fun and free things to do outdoors in the winter months in Hanna. Here are a couple of ideas.

Cross Country Skiing: Gentle for the body's joints, cross country skiing is one of the oldest winter sports.

Library of Things: Borrow items such as skis and snowshoes. Contact the library to discover what is offered and make arrangements to borrow.

Outdoor Workout: Visit the outdoor fitness equipment at J C Charyk School to strengthen your different muscle groups.

Stroll in the Park: Leave the day behind. Stroll the walkways in Hector King Hunter Park and take in the twinkling trees along the way.

Skating: Strap on your blades and enjoy the outdoor rink in an activity as Canadian as Maple Syrup.

Fox Lake: Just a short distance west is a beautiful natural setting. Residents can enjoy firepits to roast hotdogs. Bring your own wood.

Visit hanna.ca/winter-activities for cross country maps.

Change in Water Rate

Effective Jan 1, 2024 the rate for a cubic meter of water increased from \$3.00/m³ to \$3.06/m³ (actual cost of water charged to the Town by the Henry Kroeger Regional Water Services Commission).



The increase for an average consumer using 33 m³ of water in a two-month period would be approximately \$0.03 per day.

Coming Events

Centennial Place & Arena: See hanna.ca/events and look for **This Week at Centennial Place** or **This Week at the Arena** to view the full schedule including free skating, drop in hockey and local Colts games.

- Thursdays: Conversation Café at Lynks 10am & 5pm
- Narcotics Anonymous 8pm
- Jan 17 Stage Hanna Theatre Chorus 6:30pm
- Jan 17-20 Farmers' Bonspiel
- Jan 23 Maker's Hand 1pm & 7pm
- Jan 31 Council Information Mtng 8:30 am
- PD Day activities at Centennial

Safety Code Permitting Changes

Palliser Regional Municipal Services (PRMS) has announced significant changes to the Safety Code Permitting process, effective Jan 2, 2024. This brings about an enhanced and streamlined system, offering convenience and efficiency to residents and stakeholders.

The permitting office will now be situated at the PRMS **Hanna** Office, located at 115 Palliser Trail, Box 1900, Hanna, Alberta, T0J 1P0. For inquiries or assistance, you can contact PRMS at 877-854-3371 ext. 208 or via email at permits@palliserservices.ca. Notably, all permits can now be applied for and received through email, making the process more accessible and user-friendly.

For any inquiries regarding the changes, please contact:

Linda Taylor ltaylor@palliserservices.ca
Safety Code Administrator
403-854-3371 ext 208

or
Devin Diano
CEO/Director of Planning
403-854-3371 ext 206
ddiano@palliserservices.ca

The 2023 Community Services Board Grant was shared among four Hanna organizations. Library, Kiddies Korner Playschool, Hanna Lacrosse and Hanna Dance Association. Each received funds toward equipment or programs.

The Board thanks these organizations for enhancing the quality of recreation and cultural opportunities in the community.

- Feb 7 Food Bank AGM 7pm
- Seniors Social 2pm
- Youth Club AGM 5:30pm
- Feb 9-10 Mixed Bonspiel
- Feb 13 Town Council Meeting 6pm
- Feb 15 Transition to Retirement (free online) 9am

Reminder, the Town of Hanna helps local groups promote their coming events. Give us a phone call or drop off a poster at the Town Office. You could see your event listed in a variety of places including Sentinel, Kiosks, community event Calendar, Town electronic Newsletter and more.