

December 6, 2022

Dear Mayor and Council,

I do not agree with the increase in taxes. A rolling five-year cost of living average makes sense, not hitting Whistler property holders based on the one-off jump in inflation. The BC Assessment office is saying that most owners can expect to a five to fifteen per cent rise in values when notices are issued Jan. 3.

The RMOW is looking at double dipping. Increasing taxes by 8.31% based on last years property assessments does not factor in the expected increase in property values. Reality is the increase will be more than 8.31%. Unless my math is wrong which it certainly could be.

Taxpayers are going to get slammed next year with a recession and economic turn down. One only has to look at the bond market and inverted yield curve to see what a mess we are headed towards. Groceries are up significantly and expected to rise another 8%. In fact, a study estimates that a Canadian family of four will spend \$1065.60 more on groceries in 2023. Ask our food bank how many more clients they are seeing now.

Sadly, the RMOW should be cutting expenses and take a proactive stance before this recession. Increasing our taxes will hurt our families.

As an example, do we really need to spend \$165,000 on the disc golf course now? Sure. It's a great thing to have, but now? How about spending that \$165,000 on food for the WCSS?

Mayor and council's budget leaps from \$448K to \$625K. \$177 thousand dollar year over year or 40% increase. How do you justify this kind of increase at this time?

What's with all the consultants and professional services? Hundreds of thousands spent on them. We seem to have some pretty smart people working at the Muni now. Do we have to outsource?

Line item H013. Line Item H002. How do you justify spending additional resources when you have all these smart people working at the Muni now?

What is a Village Stroll Tree inventory? And why does it cost \$40,000?

Replacement of three wildfire danger rating signs for \$20,000. The ones we have work fine now.

The plethora of spending goes on and on. Council should go through each line item and review what is necessary and what is not. There are items that can wait. Just like the promised Valley extension from 99/Alta Lake Rd to Miller's Creek that has been delayed.

A recent poll by the Angus Reid Institute says more than half of Canadians – 56 per cent – say they will be spending less on Christmas, including presents and entertaining. This is the first time the non-profit's data has shown that more than 50 per cent of Canadians say they are financially worse off this year than this time last year.

Canadians are cutting back on expenditures. You want to spend more and tax us more. It's time for the RMOW to cut back like the rest of us during this recessionary period and delay nonessential items.

Regards,

Patrick Smyth

Address on file