

Reeve's Writing

The biggest news this month is that tax notices are being mailed out. The brochure prepared and distributed with the tax notices has a breakdown of how tax dollars are spent, as well as great information about the RM. Please take time to read through it. As a reminder, there is a graduated discount on the municipal portion of your taxes. Please check the monthly breakdown under "Property Taxes" on the web site to see how to save on your taxes.

One of my questions, when I started in March was: Where does all the money the RM spends come from? How much is from taxation/fees versus how much is from Provincial and Federal Governments? The answer is that each year it varies depending on how many projects are approved. There is only a portion of government funding that is "unconditional", most Provincial and Federal funds are based on project approvals.

For 2026 here is the split of income sources:

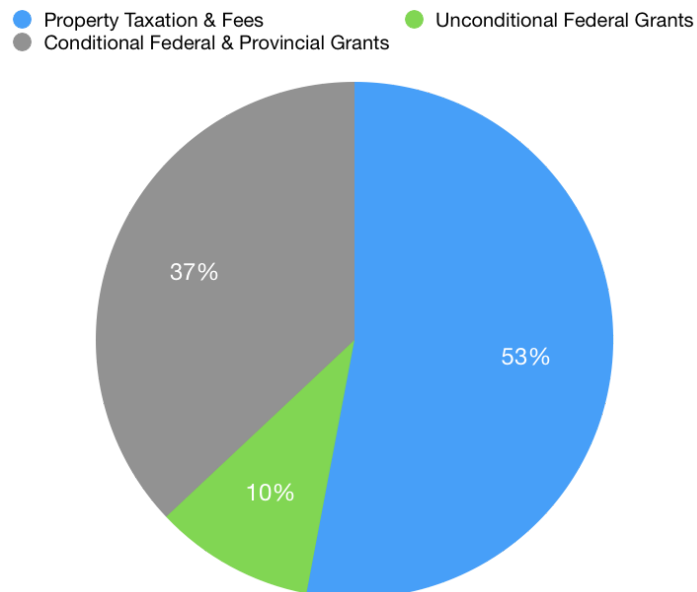
53% Property Taxation & Fees;

10% Unconditional Federal Grants;

37% Federal and Provincial Grants;

Totalling: 53% from taxes versus 47% from government grants.

Thank-you to our Provincial and Federal Governments for making this amount of support available to our RM and kudos to our administration for ensuring we apply for these project funds!



In regards to the flat tax: The flat tax is to share the burden of many mandated services with all ratepayers as equitably as possible. Council recognizes that it is an unpopular tax with people who own multiple properties, especially farmers, because it is applied to many properties. A flat tax is levied on each portion of a fragmented property (example: a quarter that is divided by a river, rail road or road, etc.). However, each of these parcels and their flat tax are part of the calculation that off-sets the tax payable on their farm home. Council decided that even though it may be an unpopular tax, it was the most equitable approach.

I hope you have been following the RM on Facebook as well as this web site. We are trying to provide more information and invite feedback. The website has a "Complaint Form" that really should be looked at more as an "Issue Reporting" form. Please use it to draw attention to an issue you think the RM should address. Also, do not hesitate to contact your Councillor, the office or myself by email, or by phone if you would prefer an in-person discussion.

The White Star Road East Reshape and Restabilization Project has now gone to tender.

The White Star West Road wash-out remediation is now complete and open to normal traffic. Thank you to everyone: contractor, users for being respectful of road closure, and province for funding making this work possible.

There are several areas that are still struggling with water on their roads as drainage has been problematic. We are working to get this resolved. Our maintenance crews have completed their work on many flood damaged roads. We are looking to contract out some projects as quickly as we can, after we get the project approvals through PDAP. The engineered fixes will be tendered out as soon as the details are completed.

We are paying a large deductible this year as part of our PDAP eligibility, but we are very grateful to both Provincial and Federal governments for their help in dealing with the aftermath of the flood disaster. Their funding assistance ensures we will be able to rebuild our infrastructure within the shortest time possible!

There have been many calls this year about at-large and stray dogs. This is a reminder to dog owners: please buy a dog license so that if your dog goes missing, and is found, the RM can match up the tag number and the owner very quickly! It saves trauma for both dog and owner to be reunited quickly! At-large and stray dogs should be reported to the RM Office by using the RM Complaint form which is found on the website.

Enjoy the 'dog days' of summer! (Yes, pun intended!)

Linda Clavelle,
Reeve