

Subject:

FW: Clarification - Budget 2026 - March 30

**Subject:** RE: Budget 2026 on March 30, 2026: Budget 2026 Motion 2026-128 as put forward by Mayor Grant Ferbey on March 26, 2026, **was not passed by Council.**

Thank you Laurie for the good questions. Today, March 30, 2026, Grant, Padey and I are at the office working on Budget 2026 options.

Yes, at the March 18, 2026 Council meeting Budget 2026 was presented and reviewed. After review and discussion, **Motion 2026-125** was put forward to accept the budget revisions.

**Motion 2026-125** was approved and passed on March 18<sup>th</sup> with \$50,000.00 in revenue from municipal contingency funds included in Budget 2026.

Yes, in 2025, \$50,000 was included in the budget as a one-time allocation from Village contingency funds.

This was done to reduce a large increase in the taxes for ratepayers. The \$50,000 budget allocation decreased taxes for residents.

At the Meeting on March 18, 2026, this was noted and the \$50,000 allocation was continued in the revenue in the 2026 budget.

The approved budget 2026 was sent to Shirley Yuschyshyn, along with other documentation required for the Tax Rate Bylaw and the 2026 Tax Notices.

After conversations with Shirley Yuschyshyn and with Mayor Ferbey on March 26, 2026, a revision to budget 2026 was proposed. This was to remove the \$50,000 allocation.

After Shirley began to work on the taxes, it became clear that using contingency funds will almost double Village revenues, subsidize the tax payer, and reduce Village revenue from the taxation of ratepayers.

This will make the budget unsustainable and lead to larger increases in tax rates in future years. The use of contingency funds for budget revenue is not sustainable.

In 2026 there will be a tax increase, as we anticipated in 2025 after the large decrease. If the full \$50,000 is removed from the 2026 budget, the tax increase will be close to double.

Discussion with Grant and Padey on March 30<sup>th</sup> was about how to get the tax increase close to the rates from 2024, with a fair increase to reflect increased costs to services and requisitions, including policing and education.

The motion Grant Ferbey put forth on March 26, **was not passed by Council.**

**Motion 2026-128** – to revise Budget 2026 to remove the Revenue line, Transfer (Contingency) Amount of \$50,000, and accept the Summer Village of Bonnyville Beach 2026 Budget with this revision on March 26, 2026.

- Motion was made by Grant Ferbey on March 26, 2026. Motion was accepted by Josh Paul on March 26, 2026.
- The motion was not seconded, and was not approved.
- After the numbers are entered into the budget and used for calculating the 2026 tax rates, a new motion to revise Budget 2026 will be put forward.

After discussion and several budget revisions made on March 30, 2026, it was decided to recommend to council a new course of action: allocate \$10,000 in revenue from contingency funds, and adjust the budgeted amounts from two expense categories:

- Reduce the budgeted amount for telephone / internet / website from \$3500 to \$2500
- Reduced the budget amount for accounting fees from \$12,000 to \$8000.

This will adjust the budget sufficiently to allow a moderate increase in tax rates for residents, as anticipated in 2025.

The 2026 tax increase will bring the rate close to what it was in 2024, with an increase to reflect increased costs to services and requisitions, including policing and education.

Thank you,

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Motion 2026-128

Not approved

Mayor Grant Ferbey

Signed: 