

## TAX HIKE COMPARISON BETWEEN RM 220 COUNCIL MEMBERS

BULYEA, SK: If you haven't heard yet, the RM of McKillop No 220 Council approved motions on August 10th to increase the 2018 tax levy collected by the astronomical amount of 176%. [Click here for more information.](#)

The RM Council "suddenly" discovered they have virtually no money left and are \$2,750,999 in debt as of July 31, 2018. So Council needs a sudden influx of our tax dollars to stay afloat.

The usual bloc vote of Reeve Howard Arndt and Councillors Murray Wild, Norm Smith, Bob Wilson and Linda Helgeson supported the motions to increase the tax levy 176% above the levy collected in 2017 so they can attempt to get themselves out of this hole. Councillors Andy Kudrewko and Marilyn LaBatte opposed the motions.

The greatest municipal tax increases will be to the residential properties in the lakeshore area. Some may be 3 times the 2017 levy. Agricultural lands, by contrast, will see increases between 5-25% of the 2017 tax levy.

To determine whether the Council, when voting to increase the tax levy collected, is being fair to ALL ratepayers and whether Council is leading by example when the going gets tough, we present below a comparison of personal RM 220 taxes 2017-2018 for all Council members (pseudonyms have been provided to protect privacy). As shown in the chart, it would appear the bloc voting members of Council who supported the motions for a 176% tax levy increase (Howard Arndt, Murray Wild, Norm Smith, Bob Wilson and Linda Helgeson), are **DOING IT TO US** rather than **WITH US**.

It is not fair to ask  
of others what you  
are not willing to  
**DO YOURSELF.**  
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

### COMPARISON OF PERSONAL TAXES 2017-2018 FOR RM 220 COUNCIL MEMBERS

RM 220 Council Member	2017 Taxes	2018 Taxes	Tax Increase	% Increase	Did Councillor Support Motions for 176% Increase in 2018?
1	\$2440.96	\$3021.68	\$580.72	23.8%	YES
2	\$1119.82	\$1178.56	\$58.74	5.2%	YES
3	\$2573.82	\$2705.65	\$131.83	5.1%	YES
4	\$5366.40	\$5706.61	\$340.21	6.3%	YES
5	\$2193.86	\$6229.65	\$4035.79	184%	NO
6	\$2227.61	\$4228.34	\$2000.73	89.8%	YES
7	\$2222.40	\$4464.82	\$2242.42	100.9%	NO

Note: Norm Smith and Murray Wild do not live in the RM of 220. They own Agricultural land in the RM of 220 and therefore are eligible to run for RM Council (similar to a seasonal lakeshore property owner). If you are a ratepayer in the RM, over 18 and Canadian citizen you can run for RM Council.

### Who Should You Contact to Get Answers Regarding Your 2018 RM Taxes?

A few of the bloc vote RM Councillors and the Administrator have told ratepayers with concerns or inquiries to contact their Division Councillor. But ALL Councillors and the Reeve are responsible to ALL ratepayers for the decisions they make, and how they vote, in RM 220 Council meetings. Their decisions affect ALL ratepayers NOT just those in their division. DON'T LET THEM PUT YOU OFF BY SAYING YOU SHOULD ASK YOUR OWN COUNCILLOR!

If you have comments, concerns or compliments regarding the RM finances, administration or the 176% tax levy increase for 2018, it's best to contact the Council members who supported or opposed the 176% tax increase.

Below is the list of Council members showing who supported and opposed the 176% tax levy increase with their contact information.

### RM Council Response to Ratepayers' Petitions?

- No Financial Audit
- No Management Audit
- No Electoral Division Boundary Referendum...and
- A 176% Tax Levy Increase in 2018!!

"Stop asking me to trust you when I'm still coughing up water from the last time you let me drown."

— Jackson Christian

Position	Support 176% Tax Increase?	Name	Phone	Email
Reeve	YES	Howard Arndt	306-725-3746 or 306-537-8921	howarda@rm220.ca howard.cathy@sasktel.net
Councillor Division 1	YES	Murray Wild	306-731-3213	MurrayW@rm220.ca
Councillor Division 2	YES	Norm Smith	306-725-4873	NormanS@rm220.ca
Councillor Division 3	YES	Bob Wilson	306-731-7478	bobw@rm220.ca
Councillor Division 4	No	Andrew Kuderewko	306-725-3773	andrewk@rm220.ca
Councillor Division 5	YES	Linda Helegson	306-725-4869	lhelgeson@sasktel.net lindah@rm220.ca
Councillor Division 6	No	Marilyn LaBatte	306-725-2049	marilyn@rm220.ca
RM Administrator	—	Michele Cruise-Pratchler	306-725-3230 Extension 3	michelec@rm220.ca

In any dealings with RM Council or the Administrator we recommend ratepayers document ALL communications in writing or record them with your cell phone.

We request that you be polite and civil! Be clear on what you are asking about and provide a date by which you'd like a response.

If you don't get a response by your specified date send another communication indicating it's your 2nd (3rd, 4th, 5th, etc) request. (7 requests for information is the RPA record).

Verbal assurances, comments and promises are like smoke: They're very hard to catch and use afterward when trying to hold someone accountable.

**DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT!**

The Rural Municipality of McKillop No. 220 lies along the east shore of Last Mountain Lake, north of Lumsden. There are 732 permanent residents and approximately 2,000 ratepayers in the RM. The RM 220 RPA is a citizen's group dedicated to ensuring fair taxes, minimizing waste, reducing spending, and holding RM Council accountable.

If you have any questions or can help please contact us at [rm220rpa@gmail.com](mailto:rm220rpa@gmail.com), [www.rpa220.ca](http://www.rpa220.ca) or visit us on Facebook