

Council debated first reading of the 2025 Tax Rate Bylaw this month. We were pleased to be able to hold the mill rate the same as the last few years with no increase to that municipal tax rate on your property taxes. It is important to remember that the actual amount of taxes levied goes up or down, based on the assessed value of your home even when the mill rate stays the same.

It is important to note that the Government of Alberta is seeking to shift more of the education ministry's budget from general revenues to what is derived from the education portion of your property taxes. Consequently, there is a significant increase in the requisition the Village is required to collect from residents on behalf of and remit to the province. Similar increases are expected from the province again next year. (See the chart below.) You can learn more about education property taxes here: <https://www.alberta.ca/education-property-tax>

	2024	2025	% Change
Residential / Farm Land	\$294,781	\$346,258	+17%
Non-residential (ie: commercial)	\$14,241	\$16,389	+15%
<b>Total Education Requisition</b>	<b>\$309,022</b>	<b>\$362,647</b>	<b>+17%</b>

We were pleased to hear from the Lions Club at our second meeting this month. The Lions Club has a long history of service projects in the Village including playgrounds and the Community Centre. The Lions Club proposed a number of potential beautification projects and has offered to support the Village with volunteer labour.



Sgt. Brad Noss of the Raymond RCMP presented recent crime trends for the region. Overall criminal charges were down 7% in 2024 when compared to 2023 for the detachment. Property related crimes were down 17%. We appreciate the effort our local detachment's commanding officer makes to engage with Council each quarter to discuss community priorities and answer questions about the great work the RCMP are doing for our community.

Officers from our local detachment will continue to be focused on 3 key priorities – reducing property-related theft, targeted traffic enforcement to promote safety and ensuring more proactive patrols for visibility in the Village.

Con't.../2

*Where families thrive.*

An electrically net zero  
municipality powered by:



Page 2

Stirling has been working together with Raymond, Cardston, and Magrath to market our region to people looking for the advantage of a slower rural lifestyle and the amenities that small urban communities can offer. We have partnered with YOLO Nomads to develop a dedicated website and marketing materials to promote all the benefits that our 4 communities have to offer. We are pleased with the results obtained over the last year and will continue to refine the process moving forward. You can view the landing page and some of the materials here:



<https://www.yolonomads.com/canada/raymond/north-america/warner-cardston-regions-alberta>



This month Council reviewed a number of health and safety policies brought forward by Administration. We appreciate the work being done by the Village's Safety Coordinator to ensure our compliance with regulatory requirements as well as help us reach our goal of zero incidents.

Preventing injuries and property damage for our employees, contractors, residents, and visitors is a key part of maintaining a healthy community.

Council also reviewed a draft policy related to Council member remuneration for the next elected term. The objective is to balance the need for low cost related to governance, but also recognize the time a new Council will invest in leading the community. Your Council also approved a new policy related to travel expenses for Village staff, volunteers and Councillors as part of our work to continuously improve financial controls and transparency.



Trevor Lewington

***"In theory, taxes should be like shopping. What I buy is government services. What I pay are my taxes."*** – P.J. O'Rourke

---

*Where families thrive.*

An electrically net zero  
municipality powered by:

