

2021 Financial Plan

A municipal budget is a planned, itemized summary of money coming into the town, and how that money is spent for a specified period of time. In Manitoba, provincial government legislation states that money coming in equals money going out (Revenue = Expenditures, or a Balanced Budget).

The Town of Altona provides many different services to the residents of Altona, so Council and Administration often have to make difficult decisions to make sure that the budget is balanced.

The “money going out” side of the budget is broken into two main components: the Operating Budget, & the Capital Budget.

Operating
Budget

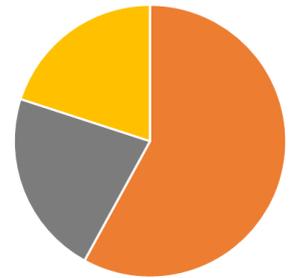
Capital
Budget

The **Operating Budget** pays for day-to-day stuff, like salaries, utilities, supplies, fuel and insurance, just to name a few. You can think of this like paying your bills at home. Just like in a household, our bills go up with inflation.

The **Capital Budget** pays for all the new big investments or rehabilitation of current assets, which is done through two methods. The first is the Reserve Fund method which sets aside funds to pay for capital projects on a cash basis. These are usually projects that are paid for in the short term such as replacing equipment, or building repairs. The other

method is the debt payment approach. This is the principal and interest payments on debt for projects that are paid for over the longer term, like new roads and buildings. You can think of this like your major purchases at home – vehicles, house, renos, etc.

Now we know where the money goes – let’s talk about where it comes from.



For every dollar coming into the Town, 58 cents comes from property taxes, 22 cents from provincial grants, and 20 cents from user fees and other sources.

Town Council and Administration, with input of the public, decide how to best balance the Town budget, guided by provincial law.

Your opportunity to provide input is coming up this month. On **March 23, 2021** at 6:00 pm, the Town of Altona Council will hold a public hearing about the **2021 Financial Plan**. You can sign up to attend virtually by contacting communications@altona.ca or 204-324-6468. Stay tuned to our website for specifics about this year’s financial plan, and we look forward to answering your questions on March 23.

Dates to Remember for March 2021:

March 1: Grace Period for Waste Limit ends. Household limit is ONE bag/week

March 9: Committee of the Whole/Council Meeting (3:30/5:30 pm)

March 14: Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 23: Committee of the Whole/Council Meeting (3:30/5:30 pm)

March 23: Public Hearing regarding the 2021 Financial Plan (6:00 pm)

March 23: Public Hearing for Conditional Use re: child care (6:00 pm)

Community Mentors Needed!

Altona/Rhineland is one of 11 communities that was chosen from many applications to participate in the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot Program. We are one year into the program, and our local businesses are benefitting from access to a larger labour pool, and our community is benefitting from new members.

As part of this program, new residents are matched with established community members to be their Community Mentor—someone who volunteers to help newcomers feel connected and answer questions about life in Altona/Rhineland. This is a one year commitment.

“I was recently introduced to my ‘mentee’ family, and although I had originally made the commitment as a volunteer and ambassador for the community, I quickly realized this was also an opportunity for me to make new friends,” said Mayor Al Friesen. “The family also inspired me with their reasons for coming to Altona.....Best Health, Best Safety, Best Education, and Best Future. I look forward to learning from our RNIP family and how we can work together to grow our community.”

Join Mayor Friesen as a Community Mentor volunteer: sign up by emailing info@regionalconnections.ca



We hope that you enjoyed the outdoor ice surfaces this year. Now that warmer weather is coming, the ice and snow is melting.

A special thank you to:

- Jason Driedger, Ash Park Rink
- Mark Stepaniuk and Sandy Hutchinson, Redwood Bay Rink
- Darcey Hildebrand and Rod Neustaeter, North of the MEC rink
- Eric Braun, cross country ski trails throughout Centennial Park

The Buffalo Creek Nature Park ice surfaces and toboggan hill were maintained by Town of Altona Public Works and Parks & Rec staff, who also cleared and maintained the pathways and trails.