

# Town to pay lower waste commission fees

## *CAOs still seek cost recovery model versus per capita levies*

**BY JOSEPH HO**

*MVP Staff*

The Town of Olds will pay less in fees to the Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission in 2016.

Coun. Mary Anne Overwater, who also serves as commission chair told council on Sept. 28 that Olds would pay \$15.90 per capita, down from \$37.55 this year.

That \$15.90 per capita pays for three things: \$9.25 for recycling services, \$5.30 for the transfer station and \$1.35 for a land acquisition.

Olds mayor Judy Dahl was pleased with the reduced fees.

"Absolutely," she said. "The (commission) board has worked very hard to get us to this point. We could still be sitting where we were last year, paying phenomenal fees."

However, member municipalities' chief administrative officers still disagree with the commission, insisting that fees be based on a full cost recovery model.

"Utilities lend themselves to

a full cost recovery model. So those that use the service should pay for it. We went that route with water and wastewater services. The CAOs that have been working on this think solid waste lends itself to that model as well," said Olds CAO Norm

***"We have passed our budget with these fees in place. This is a significant decrease in the cost of what was charged last year."***

**MARY ANNE OVERWATER**

*waste commission chair*

McInnis.

Overwater said the commission's recycling services do not generate enough revenue to pay for themselves.

Charging fees on a per capita basis ensures that the burden of paying for recycling services

is distributed evenly across all commission members, she continued.

"There probably is a better way of doing it but this year is what we have," she said.

"We have passed our budget with these fees in place. This is a significant decrease in the cost of what was charged last year."

Council also passed a unanimous motion to endorse the commission's Bylaw No. 2, which states that member municipalities are charged on a per tonnage basis for waste treatment and disposal services.

Overwater said commissions are not able to charge requisitions to their members, according to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

McInnis said the waste commission was initially given requisition authority but was supposed to wean itself off them.

The spirit of Bylaw No. 2 is to make sure the commission does not have requisition power unless authorized by members, he added.

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