
Elmslie believes province, feds will start downloading services onto municipalities

Published on June 12, 2020 — in Municipal — by Kirk Winter

At a recent council meeting Councillor Doug Elmslie expressed worry that the province and federal government will soon start downloading more responsibilities on the backs of municipalities.

He recommended that “all surpluses be put in reserve for a rainy day because I fully expect that the feds and the province are going to start downloading services because of the debt loads they are carrying.”

Councillor Pat O’Reilly seemed a little more optimistic about assistance coming from higher levels of government, while Mayor Andy Letham reminded councilors that municipalities may soon be allowed to carry a deficit for the 2020 budget year only. This could help some jurisdictions avoid steep service cuts in the fall.

“I am not sure if it is a good thing but we may be allowed to do it,” Letham said of potential deficits.

Jennifer Stover, director of corporate services, was sharing with council an overview of the 2019 and 2020 budget years and plans for the 2021 budget year.

Stover made it clear that COVID-19 has

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