

Breaking News!

Mayor guarantees tax increases a done deal?

For those people following my comments on the proposed 2012 Budget and utility rates, you might be wondering if the town will consider any of the written and oral presentations to Council on January 23, 2012. After all, doesn't the Public deserve to be heard and at least given some consideration before approval of such a large tax increase? People in attendance at the public meeting demanded that this Council consider our comments and debate their merits, or at least give us some sort of explanation.

Well, it appears that Council has chosen to essentially ignore our presentation and also to ignore the strong voice of others that it should be considered, debated and answered. At least, that is what Mayor Ellen Anderson is reported to have implied during a chats program on the Peak 95.1 FM on Wednesday morning. The Mayor reportedly told the stations' viewers that, despite people being upset with a 7.8% tax increase and garbage charges, these increases will go ahead anyway.

Was the Mayor speaking for a committed Council or for herself? How can she be so sure at this time that the proposed budget will pass? Did she consult with the rest of Council before making her comments? Is this responsible leadership? What about our concerns? Have they been considered or have they just simply been dismissed?

This doesn't have to be over! You can still make a difference by continuing to write emails and letters to the Mayor and Council (copy to cgiles@thebluemountains.ca). Please attend the next Council meeting on February 13, 2012. By attending this meeting, you will see and hear how the Mayor and individual Councilors address our concerns and how Council votes.

Michael P. Seguin
President
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