



Wednesday, April 15, 2015

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Mayor and Council
City of Port Alberni
4850 Argyle Street
Port Alberni, BC, V9Y 1V8

Dear Mayor and Council

Please find below the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce response to City of Port Alberni 5 year Financial Plan 2015 – 2019.

Summary Page ONLY. See full letter with detailed information under separate cover.

- A Contingency of \$150,000 seems *too low*.
- *Support* for a second bylaw enforcement officer
- *Support* for additional staff to the Economic Development department.
- *Support* for City Hall Telephone replacement, a City Hall Generator and the Tsunami Warning upgrade.
- *Support* for planters on lower Johnston Road.
- *Suggest* use of Industrial Heritage Society assets be on public display for special events.
- *Regret* to learn that the Train Station has recently been leased for a further 5 year term without public input for a revenue generation better use.
- *Suggest* City examine methods whereby non-resident tax payers contribute to the cost of operating City assets such as roads, recreation facilities etc.

- *Recommend* that the Business Tax revenue for 2015 remain the same as 2014.
- *Recommend* a wage and salary review to comparable communities.
- *Recommend* a thorough review of staffing levels, in particular Parks and Recreation, with the objective of elimination duplication and maximizing efficiency.
- *Recommend* the police contract be renegotiated so that Non City residents pay their fair share of the operating and capital costs.
- *Recommend* a review of the fire department with the objective of creating an Alberni Valley fire service composed of paid and volunteer firefighters.
- *Recommend* review of commercial garbage collection with the objective of providing the most cost effective service either public or private.

Conclusion

As it is difficult to identify additional revenues without raising taxes, which is problematic, the budget savings can realistically only be found in the expenditure plans.

Respectfully submitted
Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce

Bob Kanngiesser

Chair – Civic Affairs Committee