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April 6th, presentation to City Hall Edgemont Leaf Program

The Leaf program at \$84.00 per annum is not good value for taxpayer's money.

Firstly, in January I called Roads for a copy of the estimate of the projects first year's costs and they advised there is no estimate, it has yet to be compiled!

How can taxpayers be able to see value for money when the Levy was set a year prior to compiling an estimate and decide if it is value for money?

City Hall is operating at an unprofessional level at taxpayer's expense.

Why was the levy set at \$84.00 for every residence?

The smaller residences are being asked to pay an Annual increase of 4.1% while the million \$ home is paying a 1.3% increase. Why did city hall not use a levy that was a percent of the resident's City Taxes.

Another example of unprofessional work at City Hall.

Most homes in the city are owned by couples, yet City under the MGA opted to require only one signature per household, undemocratically over-looking the opinion of every second homeowner in Edgemont, and also of those who pay taxes on multiple homes.

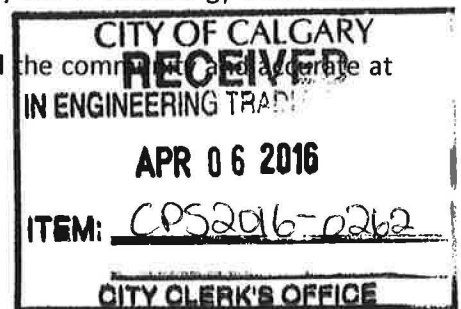
This would never be countenanced in a political election in 2017, where every voter is important to a politician, but apparently in 2015, not taxpaying voters.

Given the research by our group on the veracity of the final tally, council should set the whole Edgemont Leaf program aside for another year.

I think a 21st century approach to additional tax levies is required.

When a proposed City tax levy is being considered:

1. Write to every household/homeowner on the proposed improvement for a community with the following information.
2. A brief description of the proposed improvements.
3. A detailed cost estimate of the proposed work, the time frame it will take to complete.
4. Pro rate the annual cost to the current taxable value of each residence.
5. How long the levy will be in place.
6. Enclose a card for each homeowner with a ballot to vote for or against the proposed tax levy, with bar code to match the address.
7. Allow six weeks for the return of the ballot.
8. The above approach is efficient, fair to every city taxpayers and I am sure the City solicitor could make a good case to the Province that the 21st Century use of technology is not too far outside the bounds of the new MGA Act.
9. Once set up, it is extremely labour efficient for the city and the cost is minimal at the press of a button.



One last thought, as a Bank manager working in the city branch network for 25 years I saw firsthand during recessions the havoc wrought on families in economic downturns. Families who had enjoyed many years of prosperity will now find \$84.00 for, nice to have improvements, an insurmountable challenge.

Another reason to defer Edgemont Leaf is until a vote fully detailing what it costs and EVERY property owner is allowed to vote as set out above, or an equally fair and open system is devised.

Thank you for your time.