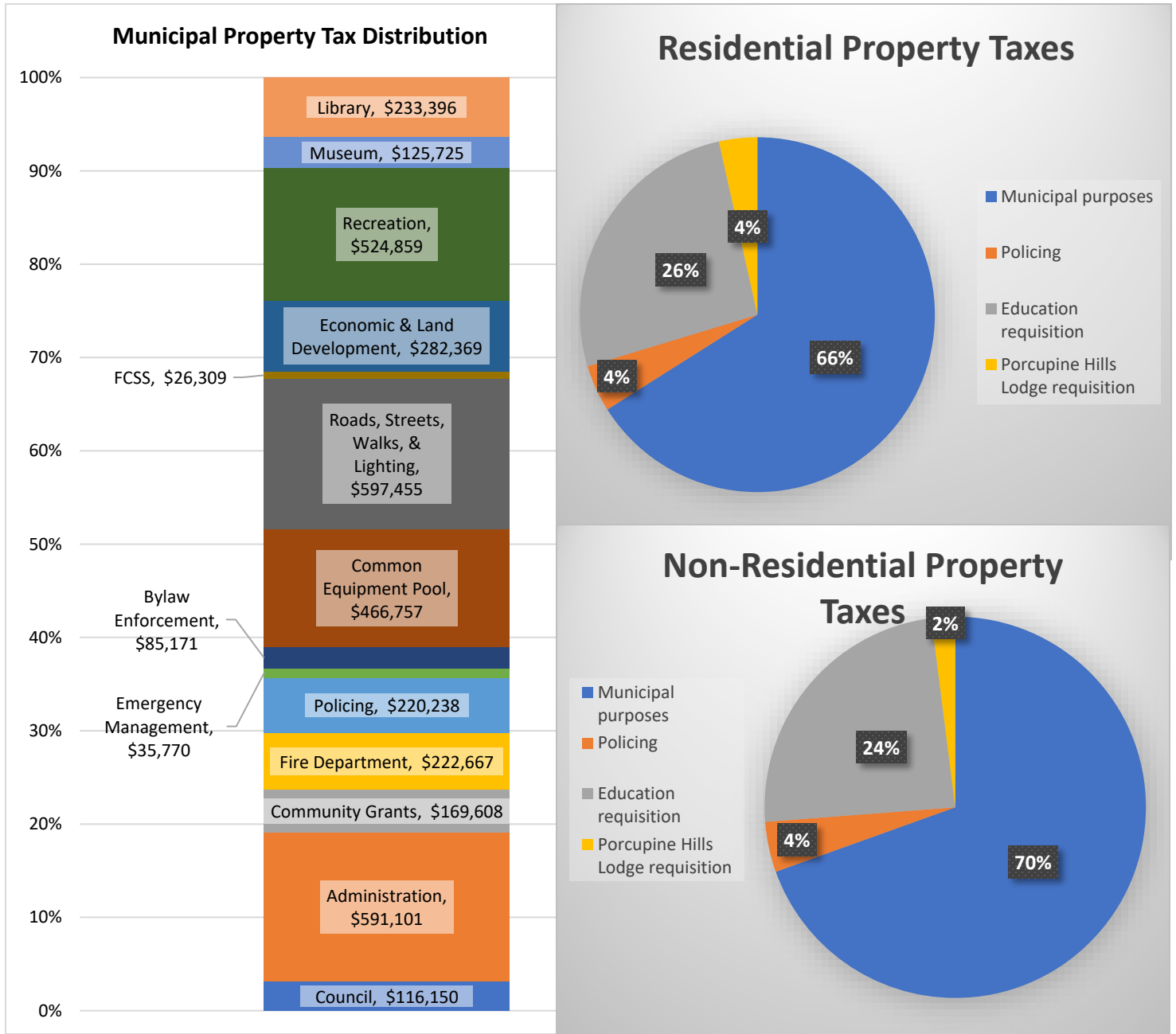


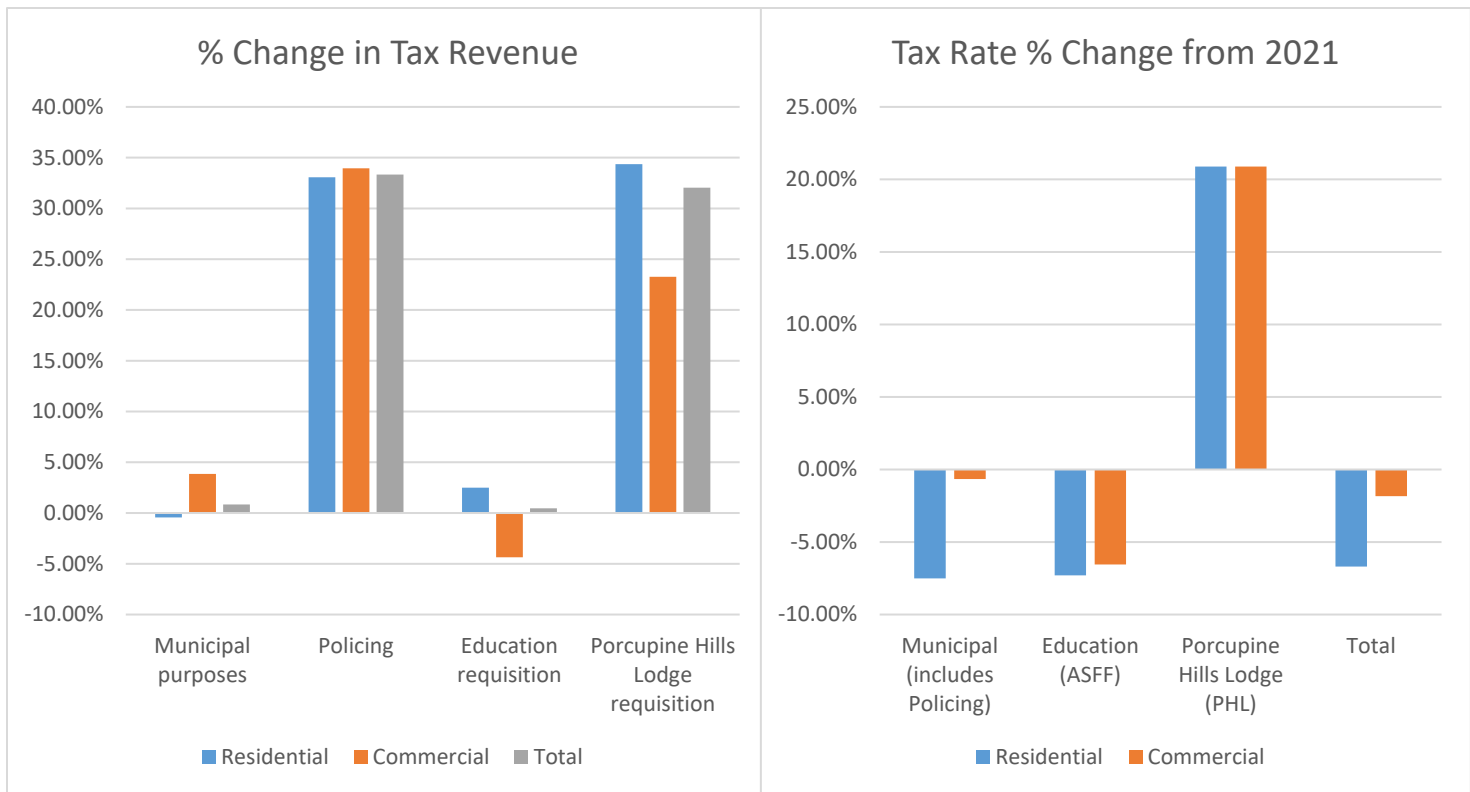
Where do your property tax dollars go?

Where do your property tax dollars go? As can be seen on the charts to the right below, only approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of your property taxes (66% residential and 70% non-residential or commercial), are for municipal purposes. The other $\frac{1}{3}$ goes to the province, or other requisitions, for education, policing and Porcupine Hills Lodge.



Of that 67% for residential and 70% for non-residential **none** of that money goes to utilities. Utility services are self-funded with utility fees paying for utility services and infrastructure. The municipal portion, plus policing costs, of the taxes are allocated as per the chart on left above (Totals \$3,742,692):

The change in property tax revenue collected for municipal purposes is very minimal, at approximately 2.1%, with 1.1% of this increase being paid by new development/growth. Only 1% increase borne by existing development. And this includes the significant increase of approximately 33% in Policing. There was significant increases in taxes collected for Porcupine Hills Lodge, and taxes for education increased approximately 2.5% for residential and decreased nearly 5% for non-residential.



Due to fairly significant inflation in assessment values, you will see an actual drop in tax rates this year over last, especially for residential properties. Residential tax rates dropped a bout 7.5% for Municipal, about the same for Education, and despite the 21% increase for Porcupine Hills Lodge, the overall tax rate is still decreasing by 6.7%. Non-residential didn't have the same amount of inflationary increases in property value overall, and so aren't seeing as significant decreases. Non-residential tax rates decrease nearly 1% for the Municipal tax rate, 6.5% decrease for education, and again, despite the 21% increase for Porcupine Hills Lodge, there is still an overall decrease of 1.8%.



Council and Administration worked hard to keep increases to property taxes to a minimum, with only a 1% increase in municipal purpose and policing taxes combined, with the remaining increased tax revenue for municipal purposes coming from new development. This is all despite significant economic pressures from inflation, reduced Provincial funding, and increasing legislation and program pressures from higher levels of government.

If you have any questions or want to discuss tax rates, don't hesitate to call the Town Office (403-625-3381 or info@claresholm.ca) and talk with the CAO, Abe Tinney, or the Director of Corporate Services, Blair Bullock. You can also discuss with your elected officials – Mayor and Council.