

Rosemère

NOUVELLES • NEWS

Express


2012 Budget

An enviable quality of life respecting our means



My fellow Rosemerites,

I am proud to present the Town of Rosemère's projected budget for 2012, including highlights of income and expenditures, different real estate tax rates, the service rate structure as well as amounts we would like to invest within the framework of our Three-Year Capital Expenditures Plan.

As I had announced in November when reporting on our Town's financial situation, the budgeting process, which we have just carried out, unfolded under the same banner of strict and responsible management as all others since 2005.

For a town such as Rosemère, which can no longer rely on the development of its territory for new sources of income, this situation represented a major challenge since the expenses involved in meeting our responsibilities continue to grow. However, as my most recent report on our financial situation clearly showed, we have met this challenge admirably, recording, as of December 31st, a budget surplus in the order of \$300,000.

This performance is all the more remarkable when you consider that we had to contend with the impact of a major worldwide economic slowdown, and still do. It is in a context such as this that our strict and responsible management takes on its full meaning.

Hélène Daneault

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VOS CONSEILLERS



**Normand
Bleau**
Seat 1



**Pierre
Roussel**
Seat 2



**Madeleine
Leduc**
Seat 3



**Normand
Corriveau**
Seat 4



**Eric
Westram**
Seat 5



**Claude
Roy**
Seat 6



ROSEMÈRE

*Une ville en harmonie!
A town in harmony!*

Expenditures and investments

In 2012, the budget calls for \$24,967,600 in projected expenditures as compared to \$24,115,400 in 2011, or an increase of 3.53%. Virtually every sector of activity will be on the rise, with the exception of general administrative expenses and financing costs which, thanks to a reduction in interest rates, will drop by \$152,200. The increase in expenses can be explained mainly by the indexation of core expenditures and the new 1% increase in the QST, which goes into effect in January.

The following provides a summary of our expenditures and investments by sector of activity.

General administration

Expenses under this heading will be down by 4.54% over 2011, dropping from \$3,628,400 to \$3,463,600 due mainly to the curtailment of professional fees for the renewal of union contracts.

Public safety

Financial activities in this sector will increase by 8.55% in 2012, going from \$4,922,800 to \$5,343,900. Essentially, this rise can be explained by a 5.5% increase in our share of the Régie intermunicipale de police Thérèse-De Blainville (Police Board), to which we will be contributing \$3,434,100 in 2012, and the pursuit of investments required under the "Fire Safety Cover Plan".

Transportation and roads

Expenses incurred under this heading will increase by 5.35%, rising from \$5,152,500 to \$5,428,300. It is due, on the one hand, to the hiring of a new foreman at the Technical Services and Public Works Department and, on the other hand, to an increase in our contribution to the "Conseil intermunicipal de transport des Laurentides" (public transit), which will be \$1,568,500 in 2012.

Public hygiene

We note a 3.5% increase in this sector, with expenditures rising from \$5,229,000 to \$5,412,200 because of the increased cost of contracts for the pick-up of garbage, recyclables and green waste. Water treatment also accounts for an increase due to rising cost of chemical data and granulated carbon.

Recreation and culture

The budget in this area will increase by 3.17%, from \$3,342,100 to \$3,448,000. This variation results from a 2% increase in the cost of renting ice time at the arena and enhancing activities at the Christmas Market.

You will find a graph showing the breakdown in operating expenses below while Appendix 1, on page 6, presents a summary of the budget.

Breakdown of 2012 operating expenses

Financing costs

\$953,100
3.55%

Long-term debt reimbursement

\$1,884,600
7.02%

General administration

\$3,463,600
12.90%

Urban planning and development

\$918,500
3.42%

Recreation and culture

\$3,448,000
12.84%

Public safety

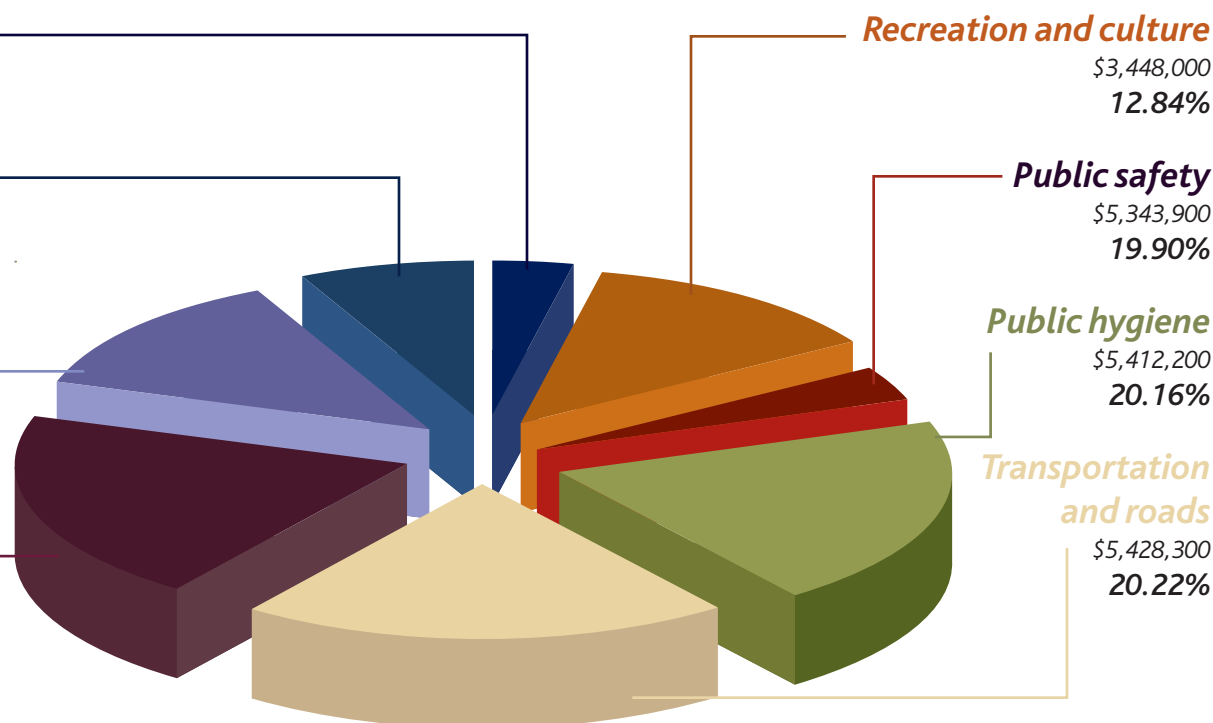
\$5,343,900
19.90%

Public hygiene

\$5,412,200
20.16%

Transportation and roads

\$5,428,300
20.22%



The 2012 tax bill

Before addressing the various taxation measures, we should mention the new three-year valuation roll, which will go into effect on January 1st, 2012 and which calls for an average 18% increase in valuations listed. To mitigate its impact on your tax bill, our administration has resorted to the averaging process, staggering valuations in real estate assessments over three years, as permitted by the Act respecting municipal taxation.

Consequently, for the first year of this averaging, the value used to establish 2012 municipal taxes corresponds to the value of the assessment unit shown on the 2011 real estate roll to which is added a third of the variation resulting from the new 2012-2013-2014 valuation roll.

Based on this data, I can announce that in 2012, we will once again be reducing the real estate tax rate for all property owners. Thus, the residential rate will drop from \$0.625 to \$0.6 per \$100 valuation while the commercial rate will drop from \$1.898 to \$1.817.

Moreover, as we did in 2011, we have ensured that the various rates applied in 2012 reflect the true increase in the cost of services. Therefore, the drinking water rate will be \$135; this \$10 increase is the first since 2008.

As a result of higher landfill costs, the garbage pick-up rate will also increase by \$10 for residential property owners, while commercial property owners will see a \$20 increase.

In short, in 2012, the average tax bill, after the addition of service rates, will increase by 2.5% for the residential sector and 2% for the commercial sector respectively. Once again, we have succeeded in holding the increase in the commercial sector below the 4.75% projected in our five-year plan. Our merchants foster prosperity and job creation, which is why we are particularly sensitive to the upheavals they currently face. We consider that we must express our support for them by limiting their tax increase to 2%. However, I feel it is important to note that we will be maintaining the high quality of our services and intend to pursue our investments.

The following tables present an overview of the various tax rates applicable in 2012, as well as the residential tax bill.

Summary of 2012 taxes

Real estate tax rates by category, per \$100 assessment

Category	2012 Real estate tax rates			2011 Total rate	2010 Total rate	2009 Total rate
	General	Special	2012 Total			
Residential	0.5370	0.0630	0.6000	0.62550	0.65790	0.68830
Commercial and industrial	1.6263	0.1909	1.8172	1.89780	2.00850	2.11990
Serviced vacant lots	1.0732	0.1260	1.1992	1.25100	1.31580	1.37650

Service rates by housing unit

	2012	2011	2010	2009
Water	\$135	\$125	\$125	\$125
Waste management				
Waste (residential)	\$250	\$240	\$225	\$212
Waste (commercial)	\$380	\$360	\$340	\$321

Your 2012 residential tax bill

(excluding water surplus and local improvements)

2012 Roll value	General taxes (rate: \$0.6000)	Service rates (water & waste)	2012 Total
\$196,000	\$1,176.00	\$385	\$1,561.00
\$261,000	\$1,566.00	\$385	\$1,951.00
\$391,000	\$2,346.00	\$385	\$2,731.00
\$652,000	\$3,912.00	\$385	\$4,297.00

Projects listed for 2012 in the Three-Year Capital Expenditures Plan

Since we're talking investments, allow me to present a few.

In terms of infrastructures, our administration plans to pursue work to restore and improve our road, sewer and waterworks networks. Furthermore, we plan to tap into financial assistance programs implemented to support municipalities carrying out interventions of this nature, in order to make the most of our investments.

The complete rehabilitation of Cedar Street will unquestionably be the largest work site of 2012, accounting, on its own, for \$1.5 M. The water treatment plant comes in second with work to finalize the replacement of the powdered carbon feeder and the start of rehabilitation work on the gravity filters and six valve chambers. It should be noted that these projects will be financed in their entirety by federal and provincial government grants within the framework of the Excise Gasoline Tax Refund Program.

Added to these projects are paving work on Grande-Côte between Labelle Boulevard and Montée Sanche, the rehabilitation of the waterworks system on Hector Street, and the replacement of lighting on De Rosemère Street. These projects have a total price tag of \$1.2 M.

Among our smaller projects, we will be investing \$150,000 in the expansion of the Technical Services, Public Works and Environment building in order to improve the efficiency of their activities and ensure their reliability. An equal amount will be allocated to the replacement of water meters which have been in place for more than 40 years, while \$125,000 will be allocated to the refitting of the waiting room at the commuter train station.

In addition, the roofs of the Club Option jeunesse's house and the Hamilton House's barn will be redone at a cost of \$65,000 while another \$50,000 will be invested in the outfitting and furnishing of Charbonneau Park in order to better meet the needs of users.

Finally, we will continue the metamorphosis of the gardens at the Hamilton House, at a cost of \$25,000, and will be allocating a further \$45,000 to the creation of a bike shelter along the railroad tracks, a project that will be financed in its entirety by the AMT (Metropolitan Transportation Agency).

The following table illustrates investments projected in the 2012-2014 three-year capital expenditures plan.

2012-2014 Three-Year Capital Expenditures Plan

Covering 2012, 2013 and 2014, our Three-Year Capital Expenditures Plan calls for investments totalling \$10,919,100. Of this amount, \$6,434,400 has been earmarked for 2012.

Projects included in this program have been retained in line with three major objectives:

- Improving services to our citizens
- Preserving and improving the quality of our infrastructures in order to protect our assets
- Exercising strict control of the municipality's net debt.

2012-2013-2014 Capital expenditures plan

EXPENDITURES BY ASSET SECTOR

	2012	2013	2014	TOTAL
Engineering works	\$5,819,200	\$1,954,000	\$1,585,000	\$9,358,200
Buildings	465,000	670,000	25,000	1,160,000
Materials, véhicules, équipement and tools	150,200	186,200	64,500	400,900
TOTAL	6,434,400	2,810,200	1,674,500	10,919,100

FINANCING

Working capital fund	\$150,200	\$36,200	\$64,500	\$250,900
Long-term loan	1,746,000	2,739,000	1,585,000	6,070,000
Allocation of accumulated surplus	260,000	35,000	25,000	320,000
Government grants and other	4,278,200	0	0	4,278,200
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$6,434,400	\$2,810,200	\$1,674,500	

2012-2013-2014 TOTAL

\$10,919,100

Debt management

The Town of Rosemère's consolidated debt, including its obligations to the "Régie intermunicipale de police Thérèse-De Blainville" (Police Board), the Rosemère-Lorraine Water Treatment Board and the "CIT Laurentides" (public transit), stood at \$31,803,222 on December 31, 2010. However, we must subtract from this amount various forms of government assistance provided within the framework of certain projects, which served to lighten our financial responsibility.

As 2010 came to a close, the net debt assumed by Rosemère taxpayers as a whole stood at \$23,18,424, or barely \$1.16 per \$100 real estate evaluation. In fact, this represents a drop from 2009 when it represented \$1.26 per \$100 evaluation.

This indicator not only allows us to assess the debt load within the Town of Rosemère's financial perimeter, but also enables us to compare our Town's performance against that of other municipalities. In fact, we can state, with no hesitation, that we are in a highly advantageous position, since the average debt load of other municipalities in the Thérèse-De Blainville RCM stood at \$3.12 per \$100 evaluation on December 31, 2010.

We are proud of having succeeded in holding our tax burden at a highly competitive level while continuing to invest in our infrastructures and services and, in the process, reducing our total net debt rate.

Appendix 2, on page 6, provides additional details on the Town of Rosemère's debt.

Conclusion

This budget was developed under the banner of continuity.

In fact, we will be pursuing the application of a strict and responsible management approach; we will be maintaining our investments in order to upgrade and improve our infrastructures, and we will be injecting money in our parks as well as our recreational and sports facilities.

What these investments in different sectors of activity have in common are a vision and the most rigorous planning. Indeed, the major projects we will be carrying out in 2012 and throughout our current mandate, will take into account other factors such as cost, demographics and accessibility. These are the principles we have applied from the outset when, for example, we analyze the condition of some of our infrastructures or the type of clientele using a neighbourhood park.

Therefore, all of our investments are well pondered and will be profitable over the long term. Indeed, according to a study recently conducted by the daily newspaper "La Presse", Rosemère is one of some sixty towns out of more than a thousand in Québec whose average tax increase has been below the inflation rate since 2006. This is a highly enviable position these days.

We have every reason to be pleased with our sound financial situation, our upgraded infrastructures, our quality services as well as our excellence in the areas of environment and sustainable development. But what makes us even prouder is the community and creative spirit that drives Rosemerites. The ties that bind us are closely woven. We are involved in a variety of causes; we support our youth; we reach out to the elderly; and we encourage our artists and creators. For this reason, our administration will continue to support the local organizations, which sustain and enrich our cultural and community life.

However, this is a management philosophy that could not be effectively applied without the support of all our department heads, notably our treasurer Luce Jacques and her entire team. These are efficient and dedicated managers working under our general director Michel Gagné, who is about to leave us for a well deserved retirement. On behalf of the Municipal Council, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your excellent work.

I also wish to thank my colleagues on the Municipal Council who, yet again, devoted a great deal of time and energy to ensure that their fellow citizens enjoy a better quality of life.

In closing, on behalf of the Town of Rosemère, I would like to offer you our best wishes for the coming year in the hope that your projects for 2012 will be carried out under the banner of health.

Thank you for your attention.



Hélène Daneault

APPENDIX 1

Summary presentation of the 2012 budget

INCOME

Taxes	\$20,983,700	\$20,541,500	\$442,200	2.15%
Payments in lieu of taxes	498,900	515,200	(16,300)	-3.16%
Transfers	1,222,300	940,500	281,800	29.96%
Services rendered	2,248,700	2,331,000	(82,300)	-3.53%
Duties	950,000	929,500	20,500	2.21%
Fines and Penalties	724,200	722,300	1,900	0.26%
Interest	272,200	220,000	52,200	23.73%
Others	-	-	-	-

TOTAL INCOME

EXPENDITURES

General administration	3,463,600	3,628,400	(164,800)	-4.54%
Public safety	5,343,900	4,922,800	421,100	8.55%
Transportation and roads	5,428,300	5,152,500	275,800	5.35%
Public hygiene	5,412,200	5,229,000	183,200	3.50%
Urban planning and development	918,500	865,400	53,100	6.14%
Recreation and culture	3,448,000	3,342,100	105,900	3.17%
Financing costs	953,100	975,200	(22,100)	-2.27%

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

FINANCING

Long-term debt reimbursement	(1,884,600)	(1,754,500)	(130,100)	7.42%
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Total expenditures before allocations

ALLOCATIONS

Investment activities	260,000	279,000	(19,000)	
Non affected accumulated surplus	(260,000)		(260,000)	
Financial reserves and reserved funds	47,800	51,100	(3,300)	

Total allocations

TOTAL

	2012 Budget	2011 Budget	DIFFERENCE \$ 2012/2011	DIFFERENCE % 2012/2011
TOTAL INCOME	26,900,000	26,200,000	700,000	2.67%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	24,967,600	24,115,400	852,200	3.53%
FINANCING				
Long-term debt reimbursement	(1,884,600)	(1,754,500)	(130,100)	7.42%
Total expenditures before allocations	26,852,200	25,869,900	982,300	3.80%
ALLOCATIONS				
Investment activities	260,000	279,000	(19,000)	
Non affected accumulated surplus	(260,000)		(260,000)	
Financial reserves and reserved funds	47,800	51,100	(3,300)	
Total allocations	47,800	330,100	(282,300)	
TOTAL	\$26,900,000	\$26,200,000	\$700,000	2.67%

APPENDIX 2

Long-term net debt

DEBT TO RESIDENTS AS A WHOLE

Special	Borrowing by-laws (taxpayers in general)	\$16,141,592	\$14,380,580	\$1,761,012
Others	Water treatment program (SQAE)	19,370	31,943	(12,573)
	Share (Boards and CITL)	4,778,852	5,238,197	(459,345)

Total debt to resident as a whole

RECOVERABLE FROM THIRD PARTIES

Water treatment plant (50.10% in 2010)	1,270,212	1,399,203	(128,991)
Government program	3,097,032	2,023,546	1,073,486

Total recovered from third parties

LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS

Total local improvements	6,496,164	7,397,671	(901,507)
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TOTAL LONG-TERM DEBT

Debt to residents as a whole			
Plus recoverable from third parties plus local improvements	31,803,222	30,471,140	1,332,082
Minus: amount payable by other parties (third parties, available balances, ...)	(8,614,798)	(6,398,372)	(2,216,426)

NET DEBT

	2010	2009	VARIATION
Total debt to resident as a whole	20,939,814	19,650,720	1,289,094
Total recovered from third parties	4,367,244	3,422,749	944,495
Total local improvements	6,496,164	7,397,671	(901,507)
NET DEBT	\$23,188,424	\$24,072,768	\$(884,344)

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