

**CITY OF CAMROSE POLICY MANUAL**

---

**DATE:** APRIL 29, 1996  
**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
**FROM:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL  
**SUBJECT:** **FEE FOR FILING AN ASSESSMENT COMPLAINT TO ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

MOTION # 91/96 Moved by Minor, seconded by Bertschi.  
**UNDER the provisions of Section 481(1) of the Municipal Government Act that Camrose City Council approve the following fees payable by persons wishing to make complaints against the assessment to the Alberta Assessment Review Board.**

<b>Residential and Farmland</b>	<b>\$ 20.00</b>
<b>Non-residential</b>	<b>\$ 75.00</b>

**Complaint fee shall be refunded when the complaint has been withdrawn in writing prior to the mailing of Notice fo the Assessment Review Board Hearing.**

CARRIED 9-0

**DISCUSSION:**

The Municipal Government Act provides for the authority for Council to set fees for anyone wishing to file a complaint to the Assessment Review Board. In accordance to Section 481(2) of the Municipal Government Act, fees must be refunded if the Assessment Review Board makes a decision in favour of the complaint.

Section 460(1) A person wishing to make a complaint about any assessment or tax...  
Section 469(3) A complaint may be made only by an assessed person or a tax payer.  
Section 460 opens the door for anyone to lodge a complaint against the assessment of one or more parcels. It is a concern, that a person can lodge a mass complaint against a whole property group.

The purpose of the complaint fee is not to discourage property owners from filing a complaint. The intended fee is to discourage frivolous filing of complaints. It is common that complaints are filed with little or no grounds specific to property value. The Assessment Department spends considerable time to prepare for each appeal including those that are withdrawn or are no show. It is anticipated that a fee will reduce the number of non serious complaints.

Complaints heard by the Assessment Review Board:

1993	Residential	18	Non-Residential	12
1994	Residential	5	Non-Residential	2
1995	Residential	17	Non-Residential	4

Survey of municipalities indicates the following fees have been adopted:

<b>City</b>	<b>Residential and Farmland</b>	<b>Non-Residential</b>
Wetaskiwin	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00
Leduc	\$ 35.00	\$ 50.00 - \$ 350.00
Edmonton	\$ 10.00 - \$ 250.00	\$ 10.00 - \$ 250.00
Grande Prairie	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00
Red Deer	\$ 2.00	\$ 75.00
Medicine Hat	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00 - \$ 100.00
Calgary	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00
Lethbridge	\$ 20.00	\$ 75.00 - \$ 200.00
Ft. McMurray	\$ 20.00	\$ 100.00
St. Albert	\$ 20.00	\$ 100.00
Strathcona County	\$ 15.00	\$ 100.00