Helena Renwick

1. I hear from a lot of people that taxes feel like they're climbing faster than their household budgets, and I think that's a fair concern. The good news is we can manage spending more responsibly without touching the essential services people rely on. For me, it comes down to a few practical things.

First, we need to keep a closer eye on big capital projects. Roads, water systems, emergency services — these are important, but the way we plan and manage the projects matters. When projects run over budget or drag on longer than expected, residents end up paying for it. Tightening procurement, keeping scope under control, and making sure we get competitive bids can save a lot without reducing service.

Second, we have to stay focused on the basics. Before we take on new discretionary initiatives, we should make sure the core services — roads, water, wastewater, paramedics, housing supports — are fully funded and running well. And when growth drives new infrastructure needs, growth should pay for growth. That's just common sense.

Third, there's room to streamline how the Town and District operate. Sometimes we have duplication, sometimes processes are slower than they need to be, and sometimes communication gaps create costly rework. None of that affects frontline services, but fixing it can make the whole system more efficient and more predictable.

At the end of the day, residents want two things: good services and predictable taxes. We can deliver both by being disciplined, transparent, and thoughtful about how we spend.

2. Huntsville needs to push the District harder on timely, coordinated infrastructure planning. Growth is happening quickly, and regional roads, water, and wastewater systems must keep pace. Better alignment and clearer timelines will reduce costs, prevent delays, and support responsible development.

3. I would fund projects based on safety, the number of people affected, and long-term planning needs. Safety comes first, high-impact roads and bridges come next, and growth-related infrastructure is prioritized so we don't fall behind. A clear, evidence-based process helps ensure fairness when we can't do everything at once.