



Capt. Kat's Lobster Shack



The Municipality continues to reorientate itself to ensure it provides the highest level of services in the most cost-effective manner and without drawing down its limited reserves. The **\$8.6 million** Operating Budget and **\$4.9 million** Capital Budget for 2021/2022 have been developed with the continuing impacts of COVID-19 impacts in mind including measures to support its residents, maintaining and improving municipal services, while also making responsible investments to help save and build for future needs of our municipality.

The Municipality begins working on the upcoming fiscal year's budget several months before the start of the fiscal year to allow sufficient time for data collection, detailed review of financial data, and public input. The process includes:



Strategic Plan



Public Input



Service Review



Financial Planning

Council approved the 2021/2022 Operating Budget with a \$0.02 per \$100 of assessment increase to the residential tax rate but has maintained its commercial tax, sewer, and fire rates.

Each year, the Municipality updates its Capital Investment Plan (CIP), in accordance with the Municipal Government Act. Again this year, a detailed review of the current and future projects was completed with a goal of planning appropriately for the next five years.

As the Municipality moves forward with its plans, this document has been prepared to assist the public to better understand the budgeting process. Each year, the Municipality is faced with the challenge of balancing the budget as mandated by the Province. While a Municipality can incur debt to pay for large capital purchases, it cannot incur a deficit to fund day to day operations. This means that we must identify revenue sources to cover all anticipated expenditures. In order to balance the budget, careful analysis must be done regarding the level of services required to meet the expectations of the community balanced against realistic taxation and user fee levels.



Residents and Business Owners,

This municipal budget contains the municipality's financial and operational plans for the next twelve months, **making the budget one of the most important documents we produce.**

Budgeting requires Council and Senior Staff to work together to decide on the most effective and efficient way to spend the municipality's revenues. We have worked hard to put together a document with you in mind, while maintaining municipal

services and also making the necessary investments to help save and building for future needs of our municipality.

In 2020/2021, the Municipality made significant investments in internet and infrastructure upgrades. We also continued to make changes to emphasize a stronger commitment to future planning.

Projects we are proud to highlight include various renovations and repairs at our library and ballfields, the paving of the Lighthouse Road, and further upgrades to our sewer lift stations and pumps.

Our budgets include measures to support its residents - including its most vulnerable, maintain municipal services and make the necessary investments to help meet the future needs of our municipality. Long-term planning and efficient use of resources is fundamental to achieving the necessary outcomes for growth and the delivery of services to our residents.

On behalf of Council and Staff of the Municipality, it is my pleasure to present you with our budget and we look forward to working with you in the upcoming year.

Warden Eddie Nickerson

Revenue

Municipalities use a variety of revenue sources to pay for a wide range of services that residents and businesses depend on and use regularly. The major revenue sources that are typically used to pay for day-to-day services include:

- Property Taxes
- Utility User Fees (Sewer)
- Other User Fees (i.e. recreation, connection, landfill)
- Permits and Licensing Fees (i.e. building permits, business licenses)

Municipalities also have access to other forms of funding which are generally used for capital projects:

- Grants from the Provincial and Federal governments and their agencies
- Proceeds from borrowing
- Reserve Funds (funds saved up over time for large projects)

Part of Council's decision-making process each year is to determine what levels of funding for services should come from the various sources of revenue.

	2020/2021 Actuals (Jan)	2020/2021 Budget	2020/2022 Budget
TAXATION	5,986,881	5,926,429	6,086,081
FESS AND CHARGES			
FIRE PROTECTION	943,837	1,025,728	718,601
SEWER SERVICE	342,957	342,037	344,505
RECREATION & CULTURE	93,888	145,570	217,890
LANDFILL	116,226	107,200	116,200
FEEES AND CHARGES	1,496,908	1,222,187	1,397,196
GRANTS IN LIEU	146,881	144,070	148,032
OTHER			
SERVICES TO OTHER GOVS.	90,262	110,789	117,769
PROPERTY RENTALS	55,093	58,339	50,299
INTEREST ON REVENUE	117,035	164,500	151,500
OTHER REVENUE	119,700	154,250	138,250
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	773,359	2,831,414	3,008,040
OTHER	1,155,449	3,319,292	3,465,858
TRANSFERS FROM RESERVES	-	1,670,000	2,399,000
TOTAL REVNEUE	8,786,119	12,680,326	13,496,167

Expenses

Municipalities are service based organizations. The Municipality provides a wide variety of services to an extremely varied client base. The challenge is striving to meet the needs of as many of our residents as possible in a fiscally responsible way. In addition, the Municipality is mandated to contribute a substantial percentage of its operating budget to other public authorities for such things as education, roads, corrections, RCMP and libraries.

Finally, there is frequently misperception about which services are under the control of municipalities and which are provided by other levels of government. Services we provide include Waste Collection, RCMP, Fire Service, Parks & Recreation, Streetlights & Sidewalks and Sewer Systems. Services provided by other levels of government include Education, Health Care, Roads, Justice and Community Services.

	2020/2021 Actuals (Jan)	2020/2021 Budget	2021/2022 Budget
OPERATING EXPENSES			
COUNCIL	114,302	145,595	148,147
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	693,056	904,103	928,380
PROPERTY SERVICES	330,894	666,014	451,818
TAXATION	288,612	301,690	297,933
PROTECTIVE SERVICES	912,926	1,104,551	1,152,336
FIRE PROTECTION	934,102	1,111,173	793,531
BUILDING INSPECTION	100,654	125,300	127,850
STREETLIGHTS	131,615	158,000	158,000
SEWER SERVICES	247,479	320,590	318,658
SOLID WASTE & LANDFILL	950,871	1,090,535	1,098,546
PUBLIC HEALTH & WELLNESS	118,541	123,000	139,000
TOURISM AND COMMUNITY	115,178	136,470	139,725
ENVIRONMENTAL DEV.	71,515	73,105	71,334
SENIOR SERVICES	121,311	103,472	114,380
RECREATION & CULTURE	556,495	709,205	897,204
EDUCATION	1,133,436	1,360,123	1,387,325
OPERATING EXPENSES	6,820,987	8,432,926	8,204,167
DEBENTURE PAYMENTS	70,000	70,000	70,000
CAPITAL PROJECTS	719,695	3,746,000	4,867,000
TRANSFERS TO RESERVES	0	431,400	335,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	7,610,682	12,680,326	13,496,167

New Recreation Centre \$3,000,000

The existing recreation centre has major accessibility issues, building code violations and a deteriorating physical condition. The design will be finalized with the goal of constructing a new centre this year.

Infrastructure Renewal \$1,355,000

The replacement of the weighing scale at the C&D site, upgrades to the Brass Hill Wastewater Treatment Facility, renovations and accessibility upgrades at our Municipal Administrative Centre and the construction of a new Public Works building.

Improved Internet Project \$243,925

850 new homes and businesses in Eastern Barrington and in the Port La Tour area will soon have fibre-to-the-home Internet as part of this initiative.

Bulk Water Source Station \$100,000

The construction of a bulk water source station within the Municipality to help residents access water in times of drought conditions.

Beach Facilities \$70,000

Working closely with the proper government agencies and local interest groups, the Municipality hopes to develop preliminary designs in 2021.

Arena Refrigeration Control System \$45,000

The current refrigeration control system at the Sandy Wickens Memorial Arena is obsolete and this project will see its replacement.

Lobster Pot Christmas Tree \$15,000

Our Lobster Pot Christmas Tree has become a tradition during celebrations in our Municipality. This investment will allow us to build a new and improved tree.



DID YOU KNOW?

Only two-thirds of the property taxes you pay each year go towards municipal services. Each year, the Municipality is mandated to contribute to other public services such as education, roads, corrections, RCMP and libraries.

Why did the residential tax rate increase?

Rising costs, aging infrastructure and investing in our future are the three primary reasons why the tax rate has increased. We strive to maintain a high level of service and meet the needs of our residents in a fiscally responsible way. However, with rising costs for policing, education and general operating expenses such as insurance and power, it is becoming increasingly difficult to simply operate the Municipality – let alone save and build for the future.

How much more will I pay in property taxes on my home?

The increase in the general rate means a homeowner with an assessed home value of \$100,000 will pay \$20 more per year (\$1.67 per month) in municipal property taxes. For every \$100,000 in assessment, the increase multiplies by that factor (i.e. \$200,000 of assessment = \$40/year, \$300,00 of assessment = \$60/year, etc.)

Has COVID-19 impacted this year’s municipal budgets?

COVID-19 has impacted some municipal revenues and expenses but not to the extent we expected. Adjustments were made again in this year’s budget to better reflect the reality of service delivery, extend certain measures such as the enhanced low-income tax exemption program and incorporate “safety mechanisms”.

How does Barrington’s residential tax rate compare to other similar municipalities?

It is difficult to compare tax rates as each municipality includes different services within their general rate. For example, the Municipality of Barrington’s general rate includes all but Fire Protection whereas the Municipality of Digby’s general rate does not include Fire Protection, Sidewalks or Streetlights. After including all rates and charges, here is a summary of the rates of similar municipalities:

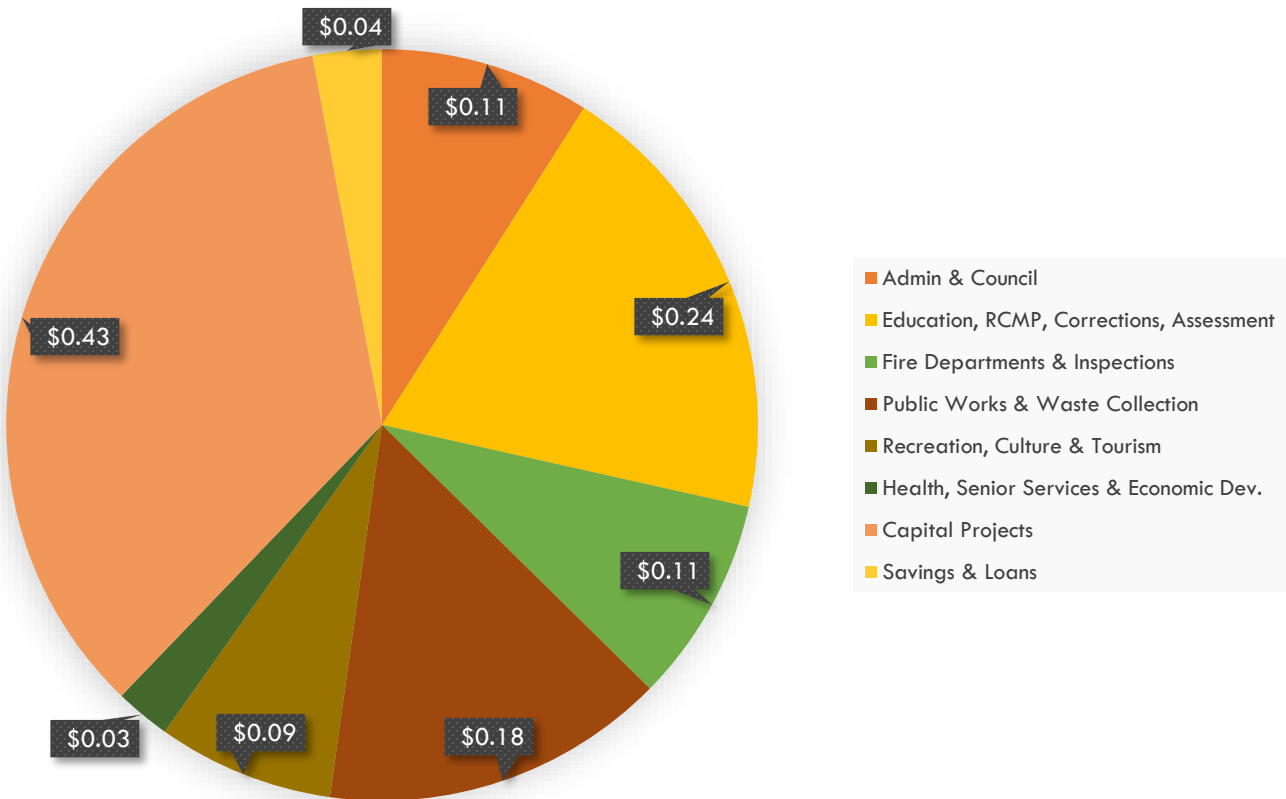
Area	Rate*
DIGBY	\$1.44-\$1.54
VICTORIA	\$1.30
SHELBURNE	\$1.26
BARRINGTON	\$1.12-\$1.21
CLARE	\$1.15
ARGYLE	\$1.10-\$1.15
RICHMOND	\$0.90-\$0.96

*Per \$100 of assessment and depending on fire district.

Why do I pay for fire services separately and what is the capital rate for?

The Municipality's fire services are funded through area rates within each of our three fire districts. The revenues generated from the rates are provided to each respective fire department to operate their department throughout the year. This year, we have implemented a new fire capital rate which will be used to fund the department's capital purchases.

Where do my tax dollars go?



DID YOU KNOW?

The Municipality of Barrington has over 1,158 streetlights throughout the Municipality at a total cost each year of approximately \$160,000. This represents about \$0.04 per \$100 of assessment which equals \$40 per year for a homeowner with an assessed home value of \$100,000.