



Baccaro Point Lighthouse – Marsha Bateman



The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented public health and economic challenge. To continue delivering essential services, the Municipality has reoriented itself to ensure that it does not draw down its limited reserves that were not designed for a crisis of this scale or duration. The **\$8.9 million** Operating Budget and **\$3.7 million** Capital Budget for 2020/2021 have been developed with COVID-19 impacts in mind including measures to support its residents - including its most vulnerable - through this unprecedented public health and economic challenge, maintaining and improving municipal services, while also making responsible investments to help meet the 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

In light of COVID-19 and an increase in the tax rate last year, Council approved the 2020/2021 Budget with no increases to its tax rates, fire rates or sewer charges.

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 plan, 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.



Dear Residents and Business Owners,

This municipal budget contains the municipality's financial, operational and political 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 COVID-19 impacts in mind, while maintaining

municipal services and also making the necessary investments to help meet the future needs of our municipality.

In 2019/2020, the Municipality made significant investments in recreation infrastructure and tourism. We also continued to make changes to emphasize a stronger commitment to our infrastructure and future planning.

Projects we are proud to highlight include: various renovations and repairs at the arena, the replacement of the North East Point Boardwalk, a parking area at Stoney Island Beach, the purchase of batting cages for our arena, a sewer lateral in Barrington Passage to assist in the development of housing, the paving of the Red Schoolhouse Lane, and upgrades to our sewer lift stations and pumps.

Our budgets include measures to support its residents - including its most vulnerable, maintaining municipal services and making 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, it is our 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.

	2019/2020 Actuals (Feb)	2019/2020 Budget	2020/2021 Budget
TAXATION	5,794,350	5,772,958	5,926,429
FESS AND CHARGES			
FIRE PROTECTION	794,811	751,754	1,025,728
SEWER SERVICE	341,478	342,528	342,037
RECREATION & CULTURE	185,741	173,645	145,570
LANDFILL	101,735	111,200	107,200
FEES AND CHARGES	1,423,765	1,379,127	1,620,535
GRANTS IN LIEU	140,233	143,247	144,070
OTHER			
SERVICES TO OTHER GOVS.	139,092	132,135	110,789
PROPERTY RENTALS	95,488	65,705	58,339
INTEREST ON REVENUE	174,912	180,000	164,500
OTHER REVENUE	131,840	127,250	154,250
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	865,673	1,088,535	2,831,414
OTHER	1,407,005	1,988,625	3,319,292
TRANSFERS FROM RESERVES	313,263	544,000	1,670,000
TOTAL REVNEUE	9,078,616	9,432,957	12,680,326

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.

	2019/2020 Actuals (Feb)	2019/2020 Budget	2020/2021 Budget
OPERATING EXPENSES			
COUNCIL	121,361	142,908	145,595
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	709,417	763,405	904,103
PROPERTY SERVICES	418,505	457,680	666,014
TAXATION	225,163	278,034	301,690
PROTECTIVE SERVICES	1,052,093	1,097,478	1,104,551
FIRE PROTECTION	860,468	822,369	1,111,173
BUILDING INSPECTION	113,648	131,591	125,300
STREETLIGHTS	144,240	158,000	158,000
SEWER SERVICES	238,311	289,462	320,590
SOLID WASTE & LANDFILL	879,080	974,689	1,090,535
PUBLIC HEALTH & WELLNESS	115,408	105,000	123,000
TOURISM AND COMMUNITY	129,660	154,057	136,470
ENVIRONMENTAL DEV.	76,394	72,425	73,105
SENIOR SERVICES	146,337	122,054	103,472
RECREATION & CULTURE	724,390	705,841	709,205
EDUCATION	1,220,509	1,331,464	1,360,123
OPERATING EXPENSES	7,174,984	7,606,457	8,432,926
DEBENTURE PAYMENTS	70,000	70,000	70,000
CAPITAL PROJECTS	700,611	986,500	3,746,000
TRANSFERS TO RESERVES	514,713	770,000	431,400
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,460,308	9,432,957	12,680,326

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.

Beach Enhancements \$75,000

Our beaches are popular with locals and visitors alike but lack proper amenities. Working closely with the proper government agencies and local interest groups, the Municipality hopes to develop a strategy and begin implementing it in 2020.

Infrastructure Renewal \$335,000

The replacement of the library and the installation of a ventilation system at the Administrative Centre.

Paving of the Lighthouse Road \$175,000

Through the Provincial J-Class road 50/50 cost-sharing agreement, the Lighthouse Road will be paved in 2020.

Sewer System Upgrades and Replacement \$84,000

A retrofit of lift station cabinets, installation of new flow meters, replacement of 2 HP and 5 HP and repairs to manhole covers.

Improved Internet Project \$200,000

950 new homes and businesses between Charlesville through to Doctor's Cove will soon have fibre-to-the-home Internet as part of this initiative.

Doctor Recruitment \$95,000

The Municipality offers recruitment incentives to physicians who choose to practice family medicine in our communities.



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 authorities for such things as education, roads, corrections, RCMP and libraries.

How has COVID-19 impacted the municipal budgets?

COVID-19 has already had impacts on some municipal revenues and expenses and more will likely come in this fiscal year. Both revenues and expenses have been adjusted within the budget to better reflect the reality of our service delivery, measures such as an enhanced low-income tax exemption program have been implemented and “safety mechanisms” such as a budgeted transfer to the operating reserve have been included. Although we have not yet seen a collection issue with property taxes, the implementation of a property tax financing program is also possible. Even with COVID-19, rising operating costs, aging infrastructure and an attempt to invest in our future, we have been able to maintain the major rates and fees for this fiscal year.

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

A homeowner with an assessed home value of \$100,000 will pay \$1,050 per year (\$87.50 per month) in municipal property tax. For every \$100,000 in assessment, the increase multiplies by that factor (i.e. \$200,000 of assessment = \$2,100/year, \$300,000 of assessment = \$3,150/year, etc.).

How does Barrington’s 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 and the Municipality of Shelburne includes all services within their general rate. After including all rates and charge, here is a summary of the rates of similar municipalities:

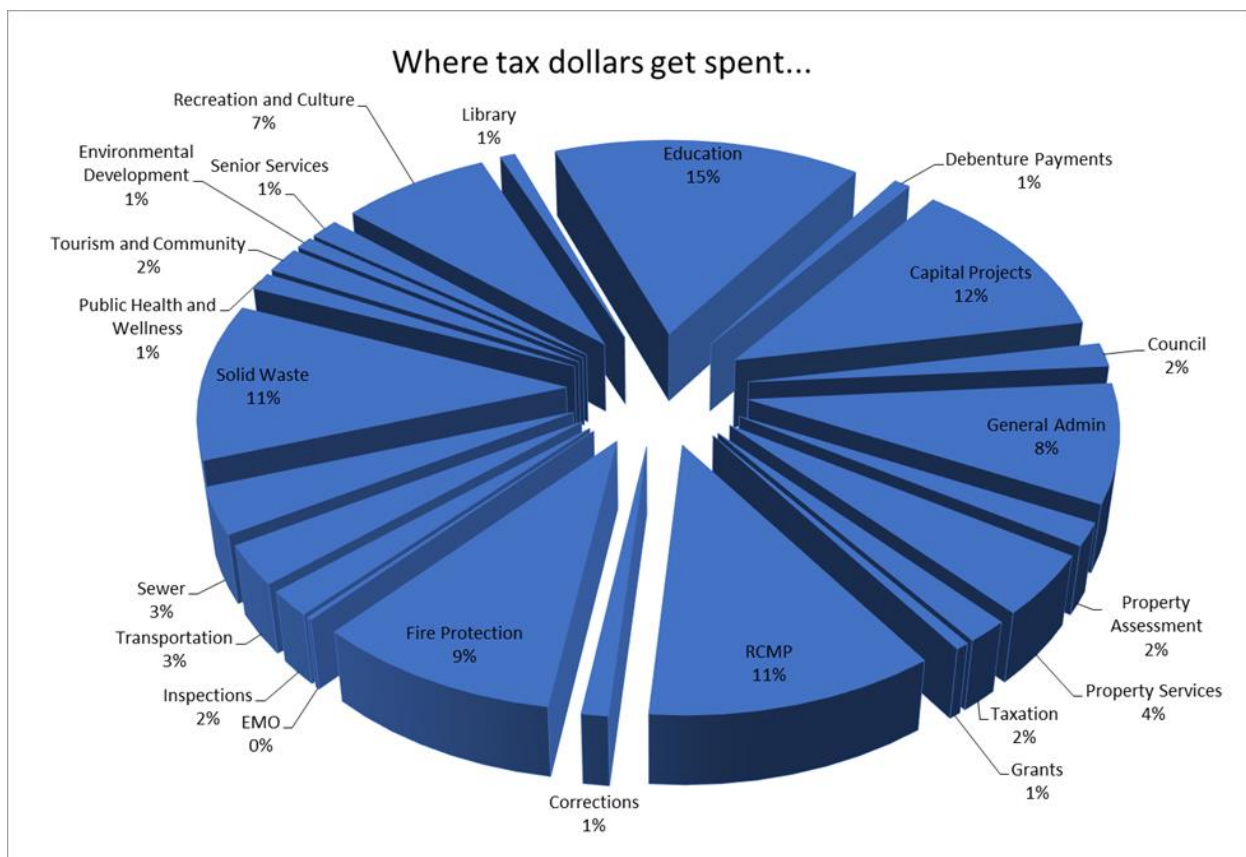
Area	Rate*
DIGBY	\$1.44-\$1.54
VICTORIA	\$1.30
SHELBURNE	\$1.26
BARRINGTON	\$1.10-\$1.19
ARGYLE	\$1.10-\$1.15
GUYSBOROUGH	\$0.87

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

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

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. Both rates combined equal last year's fire rates.

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.