

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

PRESS RELEASE

(Antigonish, Nova Scotia) On Tuesday, May 21, 2019, Municipal Council approved its approximate \$15,315,000 2019/20 Municipal Operating & Capital Budget.

Municipal Council unanimously approved the budget with no increases to the residential tax rate, commercial tax rate or sewer rates. Warden Owen McCarron stated “The Municipality continues to be a strong financial steward, demonstrated by our ability to invest in municipal operations and infrastructure, pay down debt, and maintain one of the most competitive tax rates in the province, both residential and commercial.”

Some of the major expenses included in this year’s budget include mandatory contributions to education which accounts for 23.2% of the budget and protective services which accounts for 21.2% of the budget.

The Municipality continues to invest in community in partnership with the Town of Antigonish in excess of \$425,000 for joint initiatives and operations such as The Sandlot (accessible ball field), Skate Park, Antigonish Community Transit, Antigonish Arena, People’s Place Library, and the Antigonish Heritage Museum.

The Municipality also continues to honour its \$500,000 contribution to The Time is Now campaign in aid of St. Martha’s Regional Hospital Foundation and will be contributing \$200,000 to the new Antigonish Farmers Market.

Highlights of the budget include:

Rates:

- The **residential rate will remain at \$0.88 per \$100 of assessment**. This is among the lowest rates in Nova Scotia and the eleventh consecutive year that it has not increased.
- The **commercial rate will remain at \$1.46 per \$100 of assessment**. The Municipality remains the lowest commercial tax jurisdiction in the Province of Nova Scotia.
- Residential municipal sewer rates will remain at \$316.29/unit

Key Initiatives:

- Hosting the 2019 Nova Scotia 55+ Games in cooperation with the Town of Antigonish and StFX University.
- A commitment of \$150,000 if matched by provincial and federal governments to enhance cellular connectivity within the Municipality.
- \$460,000 in grants to support local community groups and events.
- Community Economic Development Initiative with Paqtnkek First Nation.
- Purchase of mobi-mats and floating wheelchair for a beach within Antigonish County.

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- Completion of a condition assessment of all water lines, sewer lines & roads.

\$2.2 Million in Capital Investments which include:

- Accessibility upgrades and an expansion of the parking lot at the Municipal Office;
- Purchase of a new Recycling Collection Vehicle;
- Repaving Cape Jack Wharf Road and a section of Mount Cameron Circle if matched by the Province;
- Pending federal and provincial funding, waterline extensions in North Grant, Church Street to Beech Hill Road and Cameron Kinney Hill.
- Improvements and upgrades to sewer systems in Lower South River, Heatherton and Pomquet.
- Establishment of a permanent facility for Household Hazardous Waste at the Beech Hill Solid Waste Management Facility.

Tax-bills will be in the mail this week and are due on June 28, 2019. The development and approval of this budget is the result of significant work on the part of staff and Council.

2019-2020 Operating Budget Summary

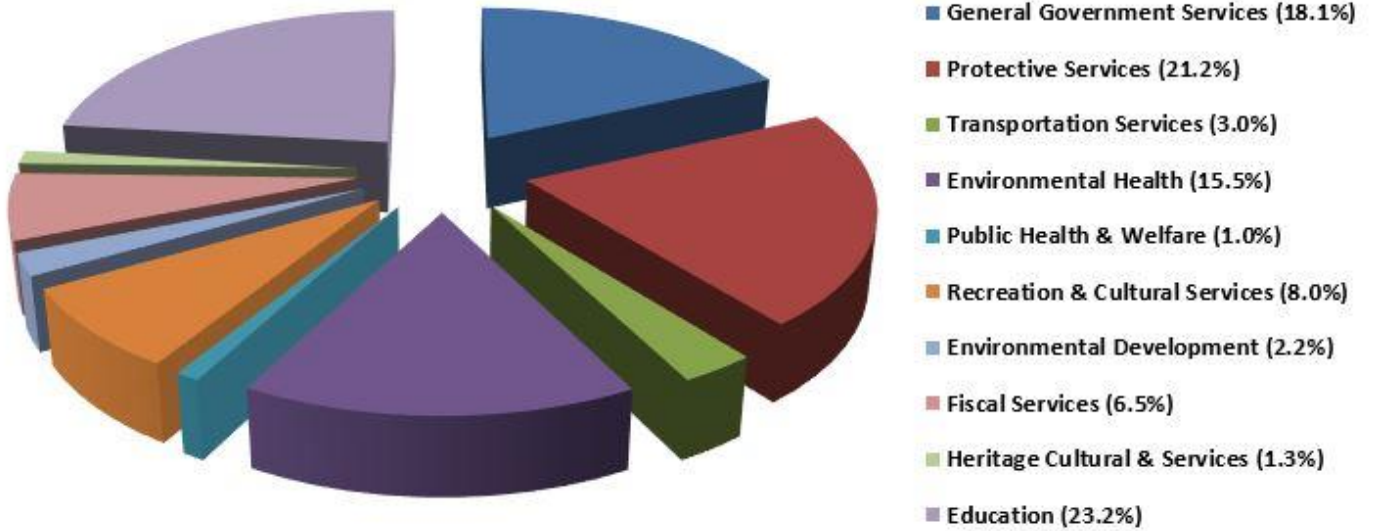
2019-2020 Operating Budget Summary		
General Government Services	\$2,779,380	Council, Administration, Facilities & Assessment Costs
Protective Services	\$3,242,327	Policing, Corrections, Fire Protection & Fire Departments
Transportation Services	\$463,850	Municipal & J-Class Roads, Sidewalks & Snow Removal
Environmental Health	\$2,377,176	Sewer, Solid Waste Collection & Beech Hill Transfer Station Operation
Public Health & Welfare	\$148,300	Regional Housing Authority & Community Organizations
Recreation & Cultural Services	\$1,218,459	Recreation & Community Programs, Antigonish Arena, Community Grants
Environmental Development	\$336,827	Economic Development, Planning Services, Street Lights
Fiscal Services	\$994,952	Debt Charges
Heritage Cultural & Services	\$202,053	Pictou Antigonish Regional Library & Heritage Museum
Education	\$3,551,460	Mandatory Education Transfer to Province
Total Expenditures	\$15,314,784	

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MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH 2019-2020 BUDGET



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