

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

PRESS RELEASE

(Antigonish, Nova Scotia) On Monday, June 8, 2020, Municipal Council approved its approximate \$15,600,000 2020/21 Municipal Operating Budget and \$4,200,000 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 23.7% of the budget and protective services which accounts for 21.2% of the budget. Like all municipalities, Antigonish County is aware of the potential challenges associated with COVID-19 and has adjusted its financial forecast accordingly. Steps have been taken to invest in the community and not pass shortfalls on to rate-payers.

Highlights of the budget include:

- The **residential rate will remain at \$0.88 per \$100 of assessment**. This is among the lowest rates in Nova Scotia and the twelfth 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.
- Interest rate is 6% per annum.

Key Initiative include:

- Low Income Property Tax Exemption has been increased so that households earning less than \$30,000 can receive up to \$200 toward their property taxes.
- \$432,000 in grants to support local community groups and projects.
- Accessibility upgrades at Municipal Office.
- Establishment of a Household Hazardous Waste Site at the Beech Hill Transfer Station.
- Construction of a 72kW, 290 panel ground mounted Solar PV System.
- Continued support of the People’s Place Library, Antigonish Arena, Antigonish Heritage Museum, Antigonish Affordable Housing, Strait Area Search & Rescue and Beaver Mountain Park among other community facilities and service.

We are working on several other initiatives with community partners which will be announced as we prepare to launch them.

Tax-bills will be in the mail this week and are due on July 31, 2020.

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2020-2021 BUDGET

General Government Services (18.5%)	\$	2,900,807	Council, Administration, Admin Facilities, Assessment Costs
Protective Services (21.2%)	\$	3,311,658	RCMP, Jail, Fire Protection Rates, Fire Departments
Transportation Services (2.7%)	\$	428,513	Sidewalks, Class J Roads, Street Paving, Snow Removal
Environmental Health (15.5%)	\$	2,417,521	Sewer, Garbage & Recycling Collection, Building Inspection, Landfill
Public Health & Welfare (1.0%)	\$	150,300	Community Development and Housing Authority
Recreation & Cultural Services (5.1%)	\$	791,125	Youth Programs, Community Programs, Community Grants
Environmental Development (3.8%)	\$	589,288	Street Lights, Planning Dept., Industrial Park
Fiscal Services (7.3%)	\$	1,133,261	Debt Charges - Sewer, Landfill, Garbage
Heritage Cultural & Services (1.3%)	\$	205,056	Regional / People's Place Library, Heritage Museum
Education (23.7%)	\$	3,706,604	Strait Regional Centre for Education
Total Expenditures	\$	15,634,133	

