

Mayor's Newsletter

July 2020

Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia

Budget 2020/2021 Recap

The Mahone Bay Town Council approved an operating budget – including water and electrical utilities - totaling \$5.89 million on May 12th, 2020. The Council completed this year's budget process remotely, live streamed to YouTube as a precaution against Covid-19, one of many adjustments this year as our community feels the impacts of the global pandemic and measures to combat its spread.

The Town's 2020/2021 budget includes measures such as a short-term suspension of interest charges on tax and utility bills and an increase in the budget for low-income tax relief. These measures have been put in place to assist residents and businesses impacted by Covid-19. Council has also held tax rates without an increase this year, despite the increasing cost of providing services to residents.

Council worked hard to ensure that this fiscal year's budget balances both the need to assist Mahone Bay residents during this unusual time and making sure that there are enough funds to provide the same services, and quality of services, that residents deserve and expect.



Tax Rates

The approved 2020/2021 tax rate remains unchanged at \$1.25 per \$100 of residential assessment and \$3.16 per \$100 of commercial assessment.



Infrastructure Charges have been set at \$295, an increase of \$20 over last fiscal year. The infrastructure charge is a uniform tax for all residents of Mahone Bay. Each dwelling unit/commercial space/lot is billed the infrastructure charge as part of regular property taxes. These charges pay for important capital projects in wastewater, transportation, parks and facilities, etc.

The deed transfer tax remains the same at 1.5%. The deed transfer tax is charged on dwelling units at the time of sale.

Strategic Plan Projects and Initiatives

- Initiation of a public process to review and update the Town's Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law.
- Continuing to take steps toward a comprehensive asset management strategy.
- Development of a wayfinding strategy with the Mahone Bay Tourism and Chamber of Commerce.
- Climate mitigation initiatives including a community GHG emissions inventory.
- Development of an Accessibility Plan
- Continuing to build reserves necessary for long-term planning and asset management.



2020/2021 Capital Budget Highlights:



- o Plans for the replacement of the Town’s aging fire station to accommodate newer, larger equipment and ensure the safety of our

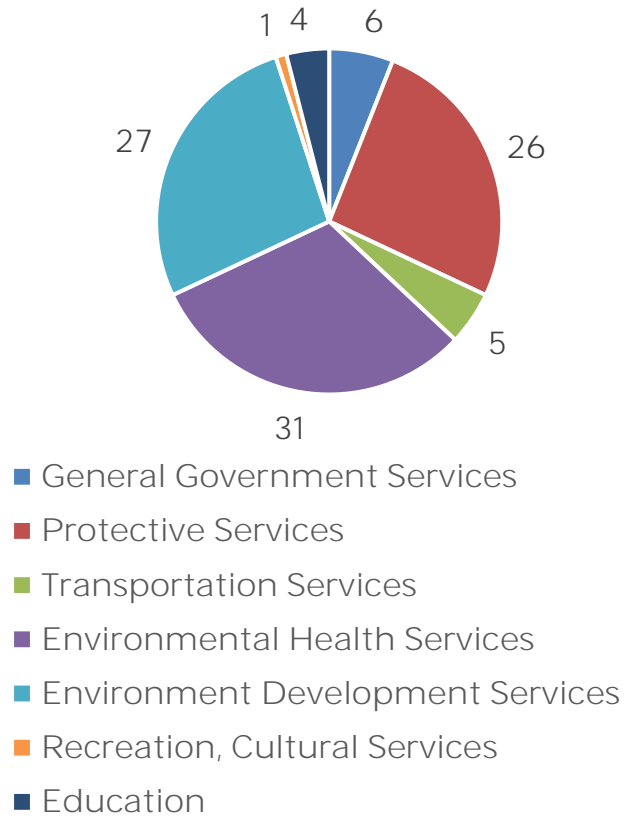
Fire Department volunteers.

- o Upgrades to the Town’s wastewater treatment facility to eliminate residual chlorine in treated effluent.
- o Continued renovation to the Michael O’Connor Memorial Bandstand, supported by community donations and anticipated federal funding.
- o Continued investment in recreational properties including the Town ballfield.
- o Needed repairs to the public wharf and breakwater at the Mahone Bay Civic Marina.
- o Several major water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure projects and the Edgewater Street shoreline improvement project, for which the Town will require the support of our provincial and federal governments.

Grants to Organizations

Bayview Community School	\$250
South Shore Tourism Co-op	\$350
Mahone Bay Music Assoc.	\$750
Mahone Bay Wooden Boat Soc.	\$500
Now Lunenburg County	\$575
Mahone Bay Founder’s Society	\$500
MODL – Pro Kids	\$500
FCM – Advocacy Fund	\$ 60
VON Lunenburg County	\$800
<u>MB Tourism and Chamber</u>	<u>\$800</u>
TOTAL	\$5,085

2020/2021 Budget Expenditures



2020/2021 Budget Revenue

