

Budget 2021/2022 Recap

The Town of Mahone Bay Town Council approved an operating budget totaling \$5.35 million on May 27, 2021 as well as a capital budget totaling \$16.8 million, supported by a projected \$8.9 million in external funding (53%). Council completed this year's budget process remotely, all meetings were live streamed on the Town's YouTube channel for the second year in a row, as a precaution against COVID-19.

Council remains conscious of the impacts of the pandemic on our residents and businesses, this led to Council's decision to not increase the general property tax rate, despite the increasing costs of providing services to residents. Council has also approved a low-income tax exemption program providing graduated tax relief ranging from \$100 to \$600 to qualifying taxpayers with household incomes under \$32,000

There is an increase in the fire tax rate, which represents a necessary investment in the provision of quality fire protection services, with the new station currently under construction to serve the community for another 60+ years.

Tax Rates

The approved 2021/2022 residential and commercial tax rates remain unchanged at \$1.25 per \$100 for residential properties and \$3.16 per \$100 for commercial properties.

The increased fire protection services rate does raise the total rate to \$1.282 per \$100 of assessment for residential properties and \$3.192 per \$100 of assessment for commercial properties.

Infrastructure charges remain unchanged at \$295. The infrastructure charge is a uniform tax for all residents and commercial property owners of the Town. These charges pay for important capital projects in wastewater, transportation, parks and facilities, etc.

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



Strategic Plan Projects and Initiatives

- Conclusion of Plan Mahone Bay public process to review and update the Town's Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law.
- Utility system diagnostics, including diagnostics of water distribution system and electrical system.
- Continuing to take steps toward a comprehensive asset management strategy.
- Initiation of a public process to develop a Housing Strategy for Mahone Bay with a focus on affordability.
- Climate mitigation initiatives from the Town's Community GHG Reduction Action Plan.
- Development of an Operational Plan for implementation of the new Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan.
- Continuing to build reserves necessary for long-term planning and asset management.

What's Behind the Budget? The Strategic Plan.

The Town of Mahone Bay 2021-2025 Strategic Plan is the document that captures the intentions for this Council term.

Starting in January 2021, Council began discussions about what they heard from residents and what the Town has learned from public engagement. From that information, Council and staff worked together to identify three strategic priorities for this Council term.

The Strategic Priorities, as well as the actions that will make those priorities a reality, are then a guide for Council at budget time.

Our Mission

To provide high-quality services to our community, through efficient, responsible and accessible Municipal government.

Our Vision

An inclusive, thriving, and healthy community committed to fostering collaborative opportunities for sustainable growth.

Our Core Values

Are the deeply ingrained principles that guide Town Councillors and Staff in the timely and collaborative delivery of services and support to our community.

Accessibility - Accountability - Equity -
Fairness - Honesty - Responsiveness -
Stewardship

Key Measurable Results

(to achieve by 2025)

- 10% population increase with diversity in age, ethnicity and income
- Increased supply of affordable housing (costing less than 30% of Mahone Bay's median household income) to 25% of total housing units
- 50% replacement of the Town's core water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure on Main Street
- 80% of the power for the Town's electric utility comes from renewable sources.

Be sure to read the full
Town of Mahone Bay 2021 - 2025
Strategic Plan
on the Town website at
www.townofmahonebay.ca

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2021/2022 Capital Budget Highlights

The Town Council approved 2021-22 capital expenditures totaling \$16.8 million, supported by a projected \$8.9 million in external funding.

Key investments in the capital budget include:

- Construction of new fire station. The new fire station will allow space for newer, larger equipment and ensure the safety of our Fire Department Volunteers.
- Replacement of the fence at Bayview Cemetery to restore its heritage facade, with anticipated provincial funding.
- Continued improvement of transportation infrastructure to increase public safety and encourage active transportation.
- Completion of renovations to the historic Town Hall building, ensuring it continues to meet the needs of the Town in the future. Will offer increased energy efficiency and improved accessibility.
- Continued renovation of the Michael O'Connor Memorial Bandstand, supported by community donations and anticipated federal funding.
- Several major water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure projects and the Edgewater Street shoreline improvement project, for which the Town will require support of our provincial and federal governments to proceed.

Community Grants & Subsidies

Bayview Community School	\$250
Chamber of Commerce	\$2,000
Health Services Foundation	\$250
Heritage Boatyard Co-op	\$500
Mahone Bay Centre	\$10,594
Mahone Bay Founder's Society	\$9,862
Mahone Bay Music Association	\$2,500
MODL - Pro Kids	\$500
Para Hockey Cup Championships	\$500
Swimming Pool Society	\$15,000
VON	\$2,000
Total	\$43,956

2021/2022 Budget Expenditures

- Legislative Expenses
- General Government Services
- Taxation Rebates & Reductions
- Protective Services
- Transportation Services
- Environmental Health Services (Wastewater)
- Public Health & Welfare Services
- Environmental Development Services
- Recreational, Cultural Services
- Education

