



Date: February 22, 2023
To: Municipal Council
cc: Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Deputy Warden Perry, Corporate and Residential Services Committee Chairperson
RE: Corporate & Residential Services Committee Report

The Committee held its regular meeting on February 14, 2023 online via Zoom; as well as Budget meetings on January 24, and January 31, 2023. The following motions are coming forward as a result of those meetings:

1. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND 2023/2024

At the January 24, 2023 Budget Meeting staff brought forward the annual review report of the Community Partnership Fund program for 2023/2024.

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommend to Council *to approve the list of recommended Community Partnership Fund Organizations to be included in the draft 2023/2024 budget and grants to be disbursed following final budget approval:*

- *Corridor Community Options for Adults, \$15,000*
- *East Hants Community Rider, \$50,000*
- *East Hants Family Resource Centre, \$20,000*
- *East Hants Historical Society, \$16,158*
- *East Hants Sports Heritage Society, \$5,000*
- *East Hants Youth Links, \$6,000*
- *Senior Safety Program Association of Hants County, \$10,000*
- *Kids Action (Annapolis Valley-Hants Community Action Program), \$10,000*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

2. GENERAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS 2023/2024

At the January 24, 2023 Budget Meeting staff brought forward a report regarding the overview of funding and the organizations currently included in the General Government Grants program.

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommend to Council *that pending appropriate documentation is received, and the passing of 2023/2024 budget, Council approve the following General Government Grants for disbursement in 2023/2024:*

- *Remembering Canada's Heroes, \$1,000*
- *Hants County Exhibition, \$500*
- *East Hants Crime Prevention *Pending insurance grant, \$0*
- *Dr. Snow Bursaries, \$3,000*
- *East Hants Foodbanks/Christmas Programs (Caring & Sharing, Hants North Food Bank, Shumiliacke, Indian Brook Food Bank, Uniacke Wishgivers, Kids Action Angel Tree Program, Hants County Christmas Angels, \$7,000*
- *COAT Association \$2,000*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

3. DEED TRANSFER TAX REVENUE

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee also recommends to Council *that Council direct staff, at a time staff have an opportunity (before next budget), to bring a report to begin discussions of how the Deed Transfer Tax should be allocated.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

4. CAPITAL BUDGET (2023/2024 TO 2027/2028)

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommend to Council *that the five-year Capital Budget for the fiscal years 2023/2024 to 2027/2028 as presented, be approved and adopted effective April 1st, 2023. Administration is given approval to proceed with the previously approved capital projects and those in the “Approval Sought” sections, subject to any conditions limiting such projects in previous motions of Council or in policies of Council. Should time permit, staff are authorized to embark on projects in this Capital Budget that require long-term pre-planning prior to April 1st, 2023. Projects “Approved for Further Study” are approved in principle only; amounts identified as “Approved for Further Study” cannot be expended prior to presentation of a full report to Council for consideration or approval through a future capital budget process. Where time permits, staff are given approval to proceed with “Approval Sought” projects from 2023/2024 prior to April 1st, 2023;*

And that, any projects approved in the 2022/2023 Capital Budget not reflected as carried forward to the 2023/2024 Capital Budget, but that are substantially committed at March 31st, 2023, shall be carried forward to 2023/2024, based on the remaining budget at March 31st, 2023;

And that, this five-year estimate of capital spending form the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) as required by the Federal and Provincial government funding agreements;

And that, the Water Utility sections of this budget are permitted to stand alone as the East Hants Water Utility Capital Budget as required by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (UARB);

And that, staff be given authority to alter the source(s) of funding where necessary, but in no case shall the amounts to be debentured increase without prior approval of Council;

And that, Council seek Ministerial approval for a temporary borrowing resolution (TBR) for any amounts in this Capital Budget under the “Debenture/Debt” category of funding;

And that, pre-approval to borrow amounts in this Capital Budget under the “Debenture/Debt” category of funding for a term not to exceed twenty-five (25) years at a rate not to exceed 6.5%.

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

5. OPERATING BUDGET 2022/2023

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council *that Council approve the draft Operating Budget 2023/2024, amended as follows:*

GENERAL TAX RATE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Proposed Budget Adjustments:

Reserves - PRC LEMC Facility Condition Assessment	\$ (34,000)
Additional Recoverable Revenue - LEMC	\$ (54,998)
Additional Rent - LEMC & Library	\$ 34,010
Revenue Reduction - Tourism	\$ 3,000
Janitorial Library/RCMP Office Increase	\$ 5,706
NSFM Fee Increase	\$ 5,300
Reserves Revised	\$ (9,046)
Proposed 3 cent commercial rate decrease (1 cent raises \$16,676)	\$ 50,029

GENERAL TAX RATE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS CONT'D

Bylaw Enforcement Officer Full Time	\$ 50,967
Return on Investments - Interest Rate Increased January 25th, 2023	\$ (30,000)
Interest on outstanding taxes - Interest Rate Increased from 10% to 14%	\$ (21,000)
Deed Transfer Tax Revenue	\$ (225,000)
Proposed 1 cent residential/resource rate decrease (1 cent raises \$223,355)	\$ 223,355
Reserves Revised	\$ 1,677
Total	\$ -

And that the following tax rates be set by Council for the 2023/2024 fiscal year:

FINAL TAX RATES 2023/2024

General Tax Rate - Residential*	\$ 0.2917
General Tax Rate - Resource*	\$ 0.2917
General Tax Rate - Commercial*	\$ 2.0517
General Tax Rate - Mandatory Provincial Funding*	\$ 0.2899
General Tax Rate - RCMP Services**	\$ 0.2284
Waste Management Fee (Per Dwelling Unit)	\$ 220.00
Commercial Serviced Levy Rate (R2)	\$ 0.6570
Commercial Serviced Levy Rate - Milford (M2)	\$ 1.2000
Residential Serviced Levy Rate (R1)	\$ 0.0650
Residential Serviced Levy Rate - Shubenacadie (SR1)	\$ 0.1850
Residential Serviced Levy Rate - Milford (M1)	\$ 0.3450
Urban Sidewalks and Streetlights Rate (R4)	\$ 0.0400
Urban Sidewalks Rate (R5)	\$ 0.0200
Urban Sidewalks Rate (R6)	\$ 0.0200
Mt Uniacke Streetlights- Park/Subdivision Rate (L9)	\$ 0.0200
Mt Uniacke Safety Streetlights Rate (L10)	\$ 0.0038
Rawdon Streetlights Rate (L8)	\$ 0.0430
Shubenacadie (differential on USR)	\$ 0.1200
Milford (differential on USR)	\$ 0.1250
Enfield Horne Settlement - Streetlights Rate (R3)	\$ 0.0160

Nine Mile River- Streetlights Rate (LN9)	\$ 0.0200
Sportsplex Area Rate (Comm./Residential) - Rhines Creek to Enfield; NMR & Belnan	\$ 0.0400
Mount Uniacke Recreation Rate	\$ 0.0070
Enfield Fire Department Levy (K1)	\$ 0.1400
Elmsdale Fire Department Levy (K2)	\$ 0.1400
Lantz Fire Department Levy (K3)	\$ 0.1400
Milford Fire Department Levy (K4)	\$ 0.1700
Shubacadie Fire Department Levy (K5)	\$ 0.1700
Maitland Fire Department Levy (K6)	\$ 0.2200
Noel Fire Department Levy (K7)	\$ 0.2200
Walton Fire Department Levy (K8)	\$ 0.2200
Gore Fire Department Levy (G1)	\$ 0.2200
Kennetcook Fire Department Levy (G2)	\$ 0.2200
NMRiver Fire Department Levy (G3)	\$ 0.1700
Rawdon Fire Department Levy (G4)	\$ 0.2300
Mt Uniacke Fire Department Levy (G5)	\$ 0.1340
Brooklyn Fire Department Levy (G6)	\$ 0.2200
Wastewater Management Fee (rate/1,000 gallons of water) (Full Recovery \$10.00)	\$ 10.00
Wastewater Management Fee (rate/cubic metre) Full Recovery Rate \$2.20)	\$ 2.20

And that the "Mandatory Provincial Funding" rate will summarize the costs of Public Housing, Education, Regional Library, and Corrections;

And that the "RCMP Services" rate will include the transfers to the Provincial Department of Justice for all amounts related to Police protection and related services;

And that both the Mandatory Provincial Funding rate and the RCMP Services rate will be charged on all taxable assessment including commercial, residential and resource assessments;

And that for Provincial reporting purposes the General Residential/Resource tax rate will be \$0.81 and the Commercial tax rate will be \$2.57.

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

6. WATER UTILITY BUDGET

The Manager of Finance gave a verbal report on the East Hants Water Utility Financial Estimates.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommend to Council *that Council approve the East Hants Water Utility Budget Financial Estimates 2023/2024 to 2025/26 as presented.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

7. POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW

The Director of Planning & Development presented the sixth report on the polling district review that discussed Phase 2 public consultation, and provided a jurisdictional scan of other municipalities regarding voter parity.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommend to Council *that Council authorize staff to prepare a submission to the NSUARB requesting that the size of Council be set at 11 and that district boundaries follow the preferred option (Fb).*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

8. WELL/SEPTIC REPORT

The Policy Analyst presented a report on a Well and Septic Loan Program based on the October 2022 direction to staff to pursue more information on a possible loan program for well and septic systems similar to the PACE program.

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommend to Council *that Council authorize staff to bring back a further report (Well/Septic Program) focusing on other funding alternatives and include middle earners.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

9. CODE OF CONDUCT

The CAO gave a verbal report on the proposed Draft Provincial Code of Conduct. Councillors had their questions answered by staff.

10. SHUBENACADIE COMMUNITY HALL UPDATE

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommend to Council *that Council deem the subdivided Shubenacadie Community Hall, PID 45427218, surplus to municipal needs and that Council authorize staff to call for Expressions of Interest from community/non-profit groups to purchase the subdivided Shubenacadie Community Hall, PID 45427218, on an as-is- where-is basis, with submissions to be brought to Council for consideration and direction.*

As Chair of the Committee, I so move.

As Chair of the Committee, I move the adoption of this report.