



**Date:** February 26, 2025  
**To:** Municipal Council  
**cc:** Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer  
**From:** Councillor Garden-Cole, Corporate and Residential Services Committee Chairperson  
**RE:** Corporate & Residential Services Committee Report

The Committee held Budget meetings on January 30, 2025, February 6, 2025, February 11, 2025, February 13, 2025 and its regular meeting on February 18, 2025, and the following motions are coming forward as a result of those meetings:

### 1. BELNAN PLAYGROUND

An old unsafe playground structure in Belnan was removed due to safety concerns. There is community interest to have a new structure installed as a replacement.

*The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends that Council request options and costs associated to a new playground in Belnan (replacing the one that was removed), for study this year (2025/2026) and for an install next year (2026/2027).*

*As Chair of the Committee, I so move.*

### 2. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND 2025/2026

Staff have reviewed annual submissions from the seven (7) organizations that received the CPF in 2024/2025. These organizations continue to meet grant objectives and submission requirements. The organizations in this funding program are supporting our residents by offering opportunities and resources, and by helping make East Hants a place people want to live.

*The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council that Council approve the list of recommended Community Partnership Fund Organizations to be included in the draft 2025/2026 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, \$20,000*
- *East Hants Sports Heritage Society, \$5,000*
- *East Hants Youth Links, \$8,000*
- *Kids Action (Annapolis Valley-Hants Community Action Program), \$10,000*

*As Chair of the Committee, I so move.*

### 3. GENERAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS 2025/2026

As per the Municipal Grant Program Policy, the General Government Grant requires a Motion of Council to approve the budgeted General Government Grant recipients. The purpose of the policy is to provide

guidelines for the awarding of grants to non-profit organizations who apply to the Municipality for financial assistance

*The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council that pending appropriate documentation is received, and the passing of 2025/2026 budget, Council approve the following General Government Grants for disbursement in 2025/2026:*

- *Safe Grad Activities (for any eligible East Hants students) \$ 7,000*
- *Remembering Canada's Heroes \$1,000*
- *Hants County Exhibition \$ 500*
- *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*
- *Cst. Heidi Stevenson Memorial Golf Tournament, RCMP \$1,000*
- *Recycle Your Cycle (Rotary Club) \$ 500*
- *4H Sponsorships \$ 200*
- *Braeden Bannister Memorial, RCMP/HERH \$ 650*

*As Chair of the Committee, I so move.*

#### [2025/2026 - 2029-2030 5-YEAR CAPITAL BUDGET \(INCLUDING SPORTSPLEX\)](#)

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee completed review of the 5-Year Capital Budget.

*The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council that the five-year Capital Budget for the fiscal years 2025/2026 to 2029/2030 as presented, be approved and adopted effective April 1st, 2025. 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, 2025. 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 2026/2027 prior to April 1st, 2026;*

*And that, any projects approved in the 2024/2025 Capital Budget not reflected as carried forward to the 2025/2026 Capital Budget, but that are substantially committed at March 31st, 2025, shall be carried forward to 2025/2026, based on the remaining budget at March 31st, 2025;*

*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.*

**2025/2026 DISCUSSION OF BUDGET WRAP-UP ITEMS - 2025/2026 OPERATING BUDGET**

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee completed review of the Operating Budget.

*The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council to approve the draft 2025/2026 Operating Budget, amended as follows:*

Proposed 25/26 Operating Budget Adjustments		
GENERAL TAX RATE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS		
Sackville River Floodplain Study - Reduce Professional Fees	Planning	(160,000)
Sackville River Floodplain Study - Reserves adjustment		160,000
Beautification Grants - Increase	Council	11,000
Fund from General Contingency Reserves		(11,000)
Physical Security Audit - Professional Fees	Corporate Services	60,000
Fund from Professional Fees Reserves		(60,000)
Safe Grad - General Government Grant	Parks and Recreation	7,000
Fund from General Government Reserves		(7,000)
Fire Protection Revenue - Elmsdale Additional .02 cents	Finance/Council	(83,758)
Fire Protection Expense - Elmsdale Additional .02 cents	Finance/Council	83,758
Fire Protection Revenue - Lantz Additional .02 cents	Finance/Council	(64,507)
Fire Protection Expense - Lantz Additional .02 cents	Finance/Council	64,507
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ -</b>

URBAN SERVICE RATE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS		
Highway 214 Wastewater Forcemain (Remaining Easements)	Infrastructure & Operations	\$ 150,000
Fund from Wastewater Obligatory Reserves		\$ (150,000)
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ -</b>

*And that the following tax rates be set by Council for the 2025/2026 fiscal year:*

FINAL TAX RATES 2025/2026		
General Tax Rate - Residential*		\$ 0.2857
General Tax Rate - Resource*		\$ 0.2857
General Tax Rate - Commercial*		\$ 2.0607
General Tax Rate - Mandatory Provincial Funding*		\$ 0.2880
General Tax Rate - RCMP Services**		\$ 0.2213
Waste Management Fee (Per Dwelling Unit)		\$ 230.00
Commercial Serviced Levy Rate (R2)		\$ 0.6250
Commercial Serviced Levy Rate - Milford (M2)		\$ 1.2000
Residential Serviced Levy Rate (R1)		\$ 0.0700
Residential Serviced Levy Rate - Shubenacadie (SR1)		\$ 0.1900
Residential Serviced Levy Rate - Milford (M1)		\$ 0.3800
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
Sportsplex Area Rate (Commercial and Residential only)		\$ 0.0400
Mount Uniacke Recreation Rate		\$ 0.0070
Enfield Fire Department Levy (K1)		\$ 0.1400
Elmsdale Fire Department Levy (K2)		\$ 0.1600
Lantz Fire Department Levy (K3)		\$ 0.1600
Milford Fire Department Levy (K4)		\$ 0.1700
Shubenacadie Fire Department Levy (K5)		\$ 0.1700
Maitland Fire Department Levy (K6)		\$ 0.2100
Noel Fire Department Levy (K7)		\$ 0.2100
Walton Fire Department Levy (K8)		\$ 0.2100
Gore Fire Department Levy (G1)		\$ 0.2100
Kennetcook Fire Department Levy (G2)		\$ 0.2100
Nine Mile River Fire Department Levy (G3)		\$ 0.1700
Rawdon Fire Department Levy (G4)		\$ 0.2200
Mt Uniacke Fire Department Levy (G5)		\$ 0.1340
Brooklyn Fire Department Levy (G6)		\$ 0.2100
Wastewater Management Fee (rate/cubic metre)(Full Recovery \$2.49)		\$ 2.40

*And that the "Mandatory Provincial Funding" rate will summarize the costs of Education and Regional Library to be charged on all taxable assessment (commercial, residential, and resource);*

*And that the "RCMP Services" to be charged on all taxable assessment (commercial, residential, and resource).*

*And that for Provincial reporting purposes the General Residential/Resource tax rate will be \$0.795 and the Commercial tax rate will be \$2.57.*

*As Chair of the Committee, I so move.*

#### LOAN PROGRAM UPDATE - WELL & SEPTIC AND PACE

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee received an update on the status of these two financial loan programs that are currently running as pilot programs. The Committee supports continuation of the programs and an increase to funding.

*The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council that Council direct staff to:*

- 1. Continue with the PACE Loan Program under Bylaw 10-500, with administration by the Clean Foundation, with the maximum program funding amount to be increased to \$250,000 and the maximum financing amount per household is to be increased to \$25,000.*
- 2. Extend the Well and Septic Loan Pilot Program under Bylaw A-200, with the maximum program funding amount to be increased to \$400,000.*

*As Chair of the Committee, I so move.*

#### COUNCIL CLIMATE WORKSHOP REQUEST

The Corporate & Residential Services Committee received a report highlighting the Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (MCCAP) Update project that is proposed in the 2025/2026 Sustainability workplan. A

comprehensive engagement strategy is a key component of the MCCAP project including engagement with Council, staff and the community.

*The Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council to **direct staff to schedule a Climate Engagement workshop with Council in support of the Municipal Climate Change Action Plan Update for the April Executive Committee Extension Date (April 17, 2025).***

*As Chair of the Committee, I so move.*

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