



Protecting the Environment

LaHave River Straight Pipe Replacement Project

- The Municipality has replaced 150 straight pipes in the Wastewater Management District. Our goal is to make the lower LaHave River straight pipe free by 2023.

Cleanup of Abandoned Schools

- \$1M is included in the budget for the demolition and remediation of Riverport School.

Flood Mitigation and Planning

- MODL now has completed Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) remote sensing data for the entire Municipality and is in the process of converting the data into elevation maps showing floodplains for a range of storms.
- The floodplain mapping will be necessary to have an informed discussion on the type of development controls in a new municipal-wide Land Use By-Law, and what is an appropriate level of planning in the Municipality.
- The Province has indicated that municipalities will be required to have land-use planning in place across the entire Municipality in the near future.
- Exploring flooding control in Hebbville and the lower Petite Riviere watershed.

Litter Cleanup Program

- The Municipality has allocated \$10,000 towards a Litter Clean Up Grant for not-for-profit organizations.



Making Life Affordable

Clean Energy Financing Program

- The Municipality will continue to offer financing for energy efficiency and cleaner energy retrofits. The program is designed to ensure residents save as much or more in energy and heating expenses than the cost of the retrofit loan, which is paid back over a 10-year period. Since beginning in 2016, this program has helped 22 households improve their energy efficiency. For more information visit www.CleanEnergyFinancing.ca

Sewer Tax Rate Reduction

- Municipal Council approved the proposed Sewer Rates of \$0.43/\$100 assessment for those in New Germany, Conquerall Bank, Cookville and Shore Drive, effective April 1, 2020. The Hebbville sewer rate was reduced to \$0.25/\$100 assessment. This is a 41% reduction in the Area Sewer Rates.

Maintain Tax Rate

- Residential and commercial tax rates remain constant in this budget.

Interim Tax Deadline Deferral

- In order to offset the financial impact on residents and businesses during the COVID-19 situation, the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg will delay the interim tax deadline by 90 days. The interim tax deadline will move from May 31, 2020 to August 31, 2020. The interim tax bills were mailed; however, no interest will be applied until September 1, 2020. If your account includes arrears, daily interest will continue to be applied to the arrears. Additionally, the Municipality will offer a deferral of PACE and Straight Pipe Loan payments of up to 90 days upon request.

Removing financial barriers for children and youth

- Continue to contribute to Positive Recreation Opportunities for Kids (PRO Kids). This program strives to remove financial barriers to ensure every child and youth has an opportunity to participate in sport, recreation and cultural activities in the Municipality.

Property Tax Rebate for Low Income Households

- The Municipality will continue to offer a property tax rebate of up to \$500 for property owners who have a total household income under \$29,999. An application must be completed to qualify for the rebate. Please call (902) 541-1348 or visit modl.ca to obtain the application. The application deadline is August 1, 2020.

Debt Free in 2021

- When the Municipality becomes debt-free in 2021, it will be only the second municipality in the province to be debt-free.



Investing in our Community

Tick Awareness and Lyme Disease

- Lyme Disease is a growing problem in Lunenburg County. The Municipality is in the final year of the three-year bait station research project and educational campaign.

Open Space Strategic Plan

- Continue to implement the Open Space Strategic Plan by investing in our parks, including River Ridge Common.
- Council continues to aggressively pursue expansions to the network of public parks and trails. The proposed 2020/21 budget includes funding for trails and active transportation, as well as \$138,000 for construction in River Ridge Common.

Active Transportation

- We will continue to provide support to the six rails to trails groups, ATV clubs and the Lunenburg County Mountain Bike Association. A focus will be on developing trails that provides connectivity to other trails, recreation facilities and amenities such as gas stations, restaurants and hotels, parks and to other communities.

Fire Services Recruitment and Retention

- Volunteers are the backbone of our Fire Service, and recruiting and retaining active volunteers is a significant challenge for our Fire Service. Council has included \$40,000 in funding for recruitment and retention initiatives.
- Through the hard work of Council and Fire services Representatives, MODL now provides consistent comprehensive life insurance to all volunteers in the fire service. The new program doubles the average level of coverage that had been provided individually by fire departments. Council is investing \$40,000 annually in WCB premiums and Personnel insurance costs for the volunteers.

Accessibility

- The Municipality has partnered with the Town of Bridgewater, Town of Mahone Bay, Town of Lunenburg and the Municipality of the District of Chester to form a Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee. This committee provides advice to the municipal councils in Lunenburg County on identifying, preventing and eliminating barriers to people with disabilities in municipal programs, services, initiatives and facilities. The committee plays a pivotal role in helping the municipalities to become barrier-free communities that complies with Nova Scotia's Accessibility Act (2017).
- A new, fully accessible Municipal Services building will be completed on municipally-owned land at Osprey Village. Previous and current Councils have set funds aside for this project for many years, which means the Municipality will not incur debt or raise taxes to build the new Municipal Services building. The Municipality continues to be on track to be debt-free by 2021.

Community Investment

- The creation of a \$150,000 Community Facilities Fund. Additional details about this fund will be available later this year.



Building the Local Economy

Improvements to our infrastructure is necessary to ensure that we maximize the opportunities to build our economy. This budget makes key investments that will help to stimulate growth in our community.

Internet

- Council is pursuing multiple avenues for expanding internet service, with a total investment from all levels of government and Internet Service Providers of \$3,791,000 expected over the next two years, affecting up to 2,000 households:
 - One project with EastLink and the Federal Government will see approximately \$1.48 million invested in the Municipality, with a municipal share of \$233,486 in the work being done.
 - One project with TNC Wireless and the Federal Government will bring a new solution to the northern areas of the Municipality. Of the \$2.15 million total program cost, the Municipality is contributing up to \$193,857.
 - Two new Internet towers now provide fixed wireless internet services for Big Tancook Island, and for areas surrounding the Lunenburg Regional Community Recycling Facility. The Municipality contributed \$80,410.
 - We're happy to see better Internet will be coming to Caledonia, Chelsea, New Germany and New Ross as part of Develop Nova Scotia's mandate to improve Internet in the province.

Rural Roads

- A total of \$1.8 million will be spent on the maintenance, operation and improvement of roads in our Municipality.
 - The proposed 2020/21 budget includes \$1.1 million in funding for paving of cost-shared provincial roads, should provincial approval be granted.
 - An additional \$833,000 will be spent on maintaining and operating municipally-owned and J class roads.
- Council is reviewing a Private Roads By-law that seeks to remove barriers faced by the landowners on private roads.
- Engineering staff are completing assessments and preparing pre-design work for possible upgrade and paving projects on existing municipal roads in the 2020 construction season.

Tourism and Investment Attraction

- The Municipality has increased the promotion and awareness of the Municipality's tourism sector with improvements to the Lunenburg Region website, upgrades to the Agri-Tour and Lunenburg Region maps, new online mapping project and Highway 103 signage.
- The Municipality is moving into the fifth year of the Investment Attraction Strategy that has seen a significant increase in the number of inquiries from both small businesses and new residents interested in moving to the Municipality. With the new addition of the Economic Development Officer the Municipality will undertake a complete review of all internal and external marketing efforts in 2020/21. The three primary areas of focus will be Agriculture, Tourism, and Osprey Village.