



**MUNICIPALITY
OF THE DISTRICT
OF LUNENBURG**



2021/22

**BUDGET
HIGHLIGHTS**



Protecting the Environment

LaHave River Straight Pipe Replacement Project

- The Municipality has replaced 228 straight pipes in the Wastewater Management District. Our goal is to make the lower LaHave River straight pipe free by 2023.

Garden Lots

- We are committed to exploring solutions to the ongoing water and wastewater issues in the community of Garden Lots that will provide a safe, reliable source of drinking water and alternatives to malfunctioning or poorly constructed on-site sewage disposal systems.

Cleanup of Abandoned Schools

- \$50,000 to complete the process of obtaining Nova Scotia Environment Regulatory Clearance of the former Riverport School site. Work entails soil and groundwater monitoring contaminated by hydrocarbons to comply with the Contaminated Site Regulations of Nova Scotia.

Flood Mitigation and Planning

- MODL2040, our municipal-wide land-use planning project, is underway.
- We continue to explore flooding control in Hebbville and the lower Petite Riviere watershed. \$146,000 has been budgeted for Phase 3 of the Petite Riviere Watershed Flood Mitigation and Assessment Project.

Climate Change Emergency

- The Sustainability Committee and Council are now developing climate action plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for both corporate operations and community emissions, having completed a baseline inventory of greenhouse gas emissions for corporate operations and the community, and worked with Council to set a corporate target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030.
- 100KW solar array for the municipal services building (\$280,000) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sherbrooke Lake Water Quality

- Council will support the Sherbrooke Lake Stewardship Committee's development of a pilot Blue/Green Algae Testing/Monitoring Program with a \$9,000 investment.

Conservation Area Development

- This budget includes \$90,000 for the design and construction of a parking area at the Oakland Beach Conservation Area. This conservation area was purchased in conjunction with the Mahone Islands Conservation Association and is intended for public water access and conservation purposes.

Making Life Affordable

Maintain Tax Rate

- Residential and commercial tax rates remain constant in this budget. The residential tax rate has not increased in 12 years, while the commercial rate has remained constant for nine years.

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.

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, 2021.

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.

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 15 households improve their energy efficiency. For more information visit www.CleanEnergyFinancing.ca.

Investing in our Community

Anti-Racism and Inclusion

- Council will invest in funding and staff resources to explore anti-racism and inclusion issues in the Municipality.

Open Space Strategic Plan

- Council continues to aggressively pursue expansions to the network of public parks and trails. The proposed 2021/22 budget includes funding for trails and active transportation, including \$276,000 for the final phase of River Ridge Common. In addition, \$242,000 is committed for trail and park improvements including: Indian Falls Trail, the Adventure Trail, the New Germany Trail Bridge, and numerous roads at municipal parks and beaches.

Active Transportation

- This budget includes \$115,000 in 2021/22 for design work for an active transportation corridor from Osprey Village to the Bridgewater Town Line on North Street.
- We are setting aside \$560,000 for future partnership opportunities with Transportation and Active Transit.
- In this budget, Council is increasing the funding per kilometre rate given to trails groups to \$525 per kilometre, for a total of \$59,900.

Fire Services Recruitment and Retention

- Council has included \$45,000 in funding for recruitment and retention initiatives.

Community Grants

- The Municipality offers various grants to individuals, and non-profit and charitable organizations, including an Emergency Assistance Fund for Community Facilities Grant Program that supports organizations impacted by COVID-19 cancellations. \$220,000 has been budgeted for 2021/22. This includes additional funding for Fire Departments that couldn't fundraise due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Building the Local Economy

Internet

- Council is pursuing multiple avenues for expanding internet service. Over the next two years, we will have over 99% of households connected to reliable, high-speed internet. This year will see \$1.5 million invested by the Municipality.

Rural Roads

- A total of \$1.758 million will be spent on the maintenance, operation and improvement of roads in our Municipality.
- The proposed 2021/22 budget includes \$528,000 in funding for paving of cost-shared provincial roads, should provincial approval be granted and an additional \$1.22 million on maintaining municipally-owned and J-class roads.
- The budget includes \$100,000 in 2021/22 for the design work and \$2,000,000 in 2022/23 for the construction of the Champlain Drive Extension from Nathan Cirillo Road to the Pine Grove Road to facilitate the creation of additional serviced lots in the municipally-owned Osprey Village development.

Osprey Village

- The budget includes \$150,000 in 2021/22 for design work and \$3.7 million in 2022/23 for the construction of a water storage tank to enhance the water pressure in the Town of Bridgewater-owned Public Service Commission (PSC) water utility. This infrastructure addresses water pressure issues as well as opening up adjacent lands for serviced development, including expansion of Osprey Village.
- Council will invest in exploring options for transit connectivity between Osprey Village and the Town of Bridgewater.

Economic Development

- The Municipality is investing \$145,000 this year in the promotion and awareness of the Municipality's tourism sector through the implementation of a comprehensive wayfinding strategy.
- \$150,000 is being committed to undertake a feasibility study to identify the possible construction of a community hub, and how such facility will be funded and operated long term.

