



LUNENBURG COUNCIL APPROVES 2021/22 TOWN BUDGET

Lunenburg Town Council approved the 2021/22 Town Budget at last evening's Council Meeting (May 25, 2021). The total Operating and Capital budget is \$7,539,900.

The residential property tax rate will increase \$0.03 (\$1.376 per \$100 of assessment), while the commercial property tax rate will hold the -\$0.04 decrease that was offered in 2020 for another year (\$3.318 per \$100 of assessment) to help our businesses during the pandemic.

The 2021/22 Town Budget provides funding for a number of Project Lunenburg Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) initiatives, including the following:

- Waste Water Treatment upgrades to various waste water collection/discharge systems and upgrades to the Waste Water Treatment Plant have been identified through staff weighting, as the #1 and #2 priorities of the CCP. These projects not only deal with environmental solutions to waste water issues experienced by the Town, but will also help our plant have capacity for population growth in our community.
- As the CCP was approved in November 2020, 2021/22 is the year that we will undertake studies to develop foundational plans for its long-term implementation. The Town will be undertaking reviews of policy and by-laws, organizational structure, and developing performance indicators for ongoing success.
- In our Planning and Development Department, we will be adding a new Planning Technician to assist with processing permits, mapping, and other planning matters so that we are able to keep pace with the level of development and special projects in our community. Funds have been allocated for surveying and other planning to enable new housing development on Blockhouse Hill.
- Monies have also been included to support the work of our Anti-Racism Special Committee. This initiative will foster diversity and inclusion in programming and leadership in our community and government.

- There will be a refresh of our communication strategy this year which will include a website rebuild and an analysis of how and what we communicate to our residents, businesses, and visitors.
- We will be adding an Economic Development Officer to work as part of the team to promote economic growth and sustainability. The position will involve attracting new businesses, supporting existing ones, and encouraging investment opportunities. The Economic Development Officer will help our community prepare for the post-pandemic environment, improve collaboration in Lunenburg County for business development, and market the Town for tourism and permanent residency.

Town Council is pleased to see items that you, the community of Lunenburg, asked for in the Comprehensive Community Plan coming to life.

CCP progress reports are being prepared by staff every quarter, and in-brief notes appear in the Mayor's Monthly Update. If you'd like to be added to a mailing list for Project Lunenburg or for the Mayor's Monthly Update, please email hmccallum@explorelunenburg.ca.

The 2021/22 Town Budget is available to the public on the Town website here: <https://explorelunenburg.ca/finances-and-tax-rates.html>.