



Barrington River Trail Bridge – Marsha Bateman



The budget is one of the most important documents the Municipality puts together each year. It reflects our commitment to creating an ocean of opportunity for all residents and shows how we plan to use public funds to support a strong, sustainable community. As stewards of these funds, we work to balance the growing and changing needs of our community while staying within the financial guidelines set by the Province.

Our operating and capital budgets are built with two main goals in mind: keeping the services residents rely on running smoothly, and making smart investments that will benefit the community in the years ahead. This means maintaining what we have today while also planning for the future.

Work on the budget starts several months before the new fiscal year begins. This gives staff and Council time to gather information, review financial data in detail, and consider input from the public. It's a thoughtful process designed to make sure decisions are well-informed and reflect community priorities.



Strategic Plan



Public Input



Service Review



Financial Planning

Each year, we also update our Capital Investment Plan (CIP) as required by the Municipal Government Act. This involves taking a close look at current and upcoming projects so we can plan responsibly for the next five years.

Balancing what we spend with what we bring in is always a challenge, and it requires careful planning and tough choices. From day-to-day services to larger infrastructure projects, every dollar is considered. This document is here to give you a clear and straightforward look at how those decisions are made and how we're working to build a strong and vibrant municipality for everyone.



As your Warden, I'm happy to share the highlights of the Municipality's 2026/2027 budget. This budget is about more than just numbers. It reflects what matters most to our community and our commitment to keeping our Municipality strong, resilient, and a great place to live.

This year, we've allocated \$12.23 million for operating expenses and \$3.16 million for capital projects. These investments come from careful planning and teamwork, helping us maintain the services you rely on while also looking ahead to future needs.

I'm also pleased to say that property tax rates will stay the same this year. There will be a small increase to sewer rates, though, to help cover the rising costs of running and maintaining the system. We know any increase matters, and this was a measured step to make sure we can keep providing safe and reliable service.

We're also building on the progress made in recent years with continued investments in things like wastewater, recreation, and infrastructure. Some of the key projects this year include finishing the new Recreation Centre, wrapping up the design for a new Community Health Centre, extending the sidewalk in Barrington Passage, upgrading the Brass Hill Treatment Plant, and adding new amenities like washrooms and change rooms at Stoney Island Beach. We're also continuing with needed repairs and upgrades to municipal facilities and equipment.

At the end of the day, this budget is about people. It's built with all residents in mind and focuses on making responsible choices that support both today's needs and the future of our community. I hope this document helps give you a clear picture of where we're investing and why.

*Shaun Hatfield*

**Warden Shaun Hatfield**

## Revenue

Municipalities use a variety of revenue sources to pay for a wide range of services that residents and businesses depend on and use regularly. The major revenue sources that are typically used to pay for day-to-day services include:

- Property Taxes
- Utility User Fees (Sewer)
- Other User Fees (i.e. recreation, landfill, permits)

Municipalities also have access to other forms of funding which are generally used for capital projects:

- Grants from the Provincial and Federal governments and their agencies
- Proceeds from borrowing
- Reserve Funds (funds saved up over time for large projects)

Part of Council's decision-making process each year is to determine what levels of funding for services should come from the various sources of revenue.

	2025/2026 Actuals (Jan. 2026)	2025/2026 Budget	2026/2027 Budget
<b>TAXATION</b>	9,738,716	9,466,765	9,928,135
<b>GRANTS IN LIEU OF TAXES</b>	59,807	179,011	196,722
<b>SERVICES TO OTHER GOV.</b>	216,273	220,469	228,281
<b>SALES OF SERVICE</b>			
ARENA	118,675	157,370	180,965
RECREATION & CULTURE	84,989	89,670	78,399
C&D SITE	176,408	243,200	461,851
<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>			
LICENSES & PERMITS	30,706	47,000	38,900
PROPERTY RENTALS	136,425	157,883	151,075
INTEREST ON REVENUE	264,479	250,000	240,000
FIRE SERVICES	497,723	406,355	105,842
WIND TURBINE	-	60,000	-
ADMIN REVENUE	68,425	41,000	54,162
<b>UNCONDITIONAL GRANTS</b>	134,478	197,204	207,204
<b>CONDITIONAL GRANTS</b>	1,358,638	3,056,085	1,850,352
<b>TRANSFERS FROM RESERVES</b>	-	4,365,822	1,660,200
<b>TOTAL REVNEUE</b>	12,885,745	18,937,834	15,382,088

## Expenses

Municipalities are tasked with providing a broad array of services to their residents, balancing this with fiscal responsibility. A significant portion of our budget is allocated to other public authorities, mandated by law. It's important to clarify which services fall under municipal control versus those managed by other levels of government. Municipalities oversee services like waste collection, RCMP, fire service, parks, streetlights, and sewers, while education, healthcare, road maintenance, justice, and community services are typically handled by other government levels.

	2025/2026 Actuals (Jan. 2026)	2025/2026 Budget	2026/2027 Budget
<b>GENERAL SERVICES</b>			
LEGISLATIVE (COUNCIL)	136,667	162,872	190,428
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	865,636	1,066,815	1,162,184
PROPERTY SERVICES	464,347	532,143	514,409
TAXATION	314,102	314,195	327,860
OTHER SERVICES	93,816	129,500	139,460
<b>PROTECTIVE SERVICES</b>			
POLICE PROTECTION	1,032,056	1,356,631	1,421,116
BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT	14,227	18,000	12,300
FIRE PROTECTION	1,034,553	1,256,840	1,000,523
EMERGENCY MGMT.	43,507	56,740	109,110
BUILDING INSPECTION	214,637	257,841	268,038
FIRE SERVICES COOR.	63,635	73,688	97,285
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
ROADS	196,680	209,120	147,500
STREETLIGHTS	154,588	182,000	184,000
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</b>			
WASTEWATER SERVICES	342,386	421,210	448,566
SOLID WASTE	1,389,946	1,551,462	1,669,277
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH &amp; WELLNESS</b>	70,077	82,000	81,000
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL DEV.</b>	477,174	490,657	563,654
<b>RECREATION &amp; CULTURE</b>	1,074,167	1,253,924	1,630,402
<b>EDUCATION</b>	1,506,310	1,807,572	1,872,349
<b>FINANCING</b>	3,893,351	7,714,624	3,542,627
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>13,381,862</u>	<u>18,937,834</u>	<u>15,382,088</u>

## **New Recreation Centre**

\$1,000,000

This investment represents the final step in bringing the long-awaited new Centre to completion. Connected to the arena, the facility features an indoor walking track, a program kitchen, and flexible program rooms designed for community use, creating a welcoming space that residents have been looking forward to for years.

## **Brass Hill Treatment Plant Upgrades**

\$1,137,000

This project involves installing a high-capacity stainless-steel dewatering centrifuge and supporting systems to improve sludge treatment and significantly reduce offsite hauling costs. The upgrade includes a new building to house the equipment, a sludge conveyor, polymer system, and feed pumps to streamline the dewatering process.

## **Community Health Centre**

\$223,000

This investment supports the completion of the design phase for the new Community Health Centre. This stage of the project includes finalizing architectural plans, engineering work, and detailed cost estimates, ensuring the facility is carefully designed to meet the current and future healthcare needs of the community.

## **Sidewalk Extension**

\$474,303

The original plan to extend the sidewalk by approximately 350 metres along Highway 3 to the future Community Health Centre site is no longer feasible due to higher-than-expected costs. Instead, the funding will be used to extend the sidewalk by about 80 metres along Highway 330 toward the Causeway, improving pedestrian safety and access in the area.

## **Recreation & Beach Infrastructure Renewal**

\$102,000

This year's recreation and beach infrastructure upgrades include a rebuild of the compressor at the curling rink, the replacement of a suction pipe at the arena, and new washrooms and change rooms at Stoney Island Beach.



## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Only two-thirds of the property taxes you pay each year go towards municipal services. Each year, the Municipality is mandated to contribute to provincial services such as education, roads, corrections, housing, and libraries.

## **How much will I pay in property taxes on my home?**

Property taxes are calculated based on the assessed value of your property and the tax rate set by the municipality. The assessed value is determined by the Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) and usually takes into account factors such as property size, location, and market value. The tax rate is set annually by Council and is applied to the assessed value to determine the amount owed.

A homeowner with an assessed home value of \$100,000 will pay \$1,100 per year (\$91.67 per month) in municipal property tax (not including fire rates). For every \$100,000 in assessment, the increase multiplies by that factor (i.e. \$200,000 of assessment = \$2,200/year, \$300,000 of assessment = \$3,300/year, etc.).

## **What do I get for my taxes?**

Property taxes fund a wide range of services that support the safety and quality of life in our Municipality, including police and fire services, sewer systems, garbage collection, parks and recreation facilities, and public transportation. A portion of your property tax is also collected on behalf of the Province to support education, which the Municipality transfers directly to the provincial government.

## **The residential tax rate didn't increase but my taxes went up. Why?**

Even though the residential tax rate has not increased, your total property tax bill can still go up if the assessed value of your property has increased. Property taxes are calculated based on the value assigned to your property by the Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC). If that assessed value rises, your taxes will increase accordingly, even if the tax rate stays the same. If you have questions about your property assessment, you can contact PVSC directly at 1-800-380-7775.

## **What happens if I can't afford to pay my municipal taxes? Are there any assistance programs available?**

We offer a property tax exemption for low-income earners who are residents of the Municipality. The province also offers a property tax rebated program for Seniors. More information on both of these programs can be found on our municipal website.

## How does Barrington's residential tax rate compare to other similar municipalities?

It is difficult to compare tax rates as each municipality includes different services within their general rate. For example, our general rate includes all but fire protection whereas the Municipality of Digby's general rate does not include fire protection, sidewalks or streetlights. After including all rates and charges, here is a summary of the rates of similar municipalities:

Municipality	Rate*
DIGBY	\$1.44-\$1.54
SHELBURNE	\$1.26
BARRINGTON	\$1.22-\$1.28
CLARE	\$1.26
ARGYLE	\$1.13-\$1.25
YARMOUTH	\$1.26-\$1.38

\*Per \$100 of assessment and depending on fire district.

## Why do I pay for fire services separately and what is the capital rate for?

The Municipality's fire services are funded through area rates within each of our three fire districts. The revenues generated from the rates are provided to each respective fire department to operate their department throughout the year. We also have a fire capital rate which is the same throughout the municipality and is used to fund each department's capital purchases.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Municipality of Barrington has over 1,176 streetlights throughout the Municipality at a total cost each year of approximately \$184,000. This represents about 1.5% of our operating budget which equals approx. \$16.50 per year for a homeowner with an assessed home value of \$100,000.