

## Municipality of the County of Cumberland

### Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting Via Zoom

**Monday, May 19, 2020**

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In March of 2020, in response to the Covid 19 Pandemic the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing declared that Municipal Councils will not meet in person but will instead hold virtual meetings. Under this order Council of the Municipality of the County of Cumberland held the May 13, 2020 Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting via Zoom. This meeting was live streamed on the Municipality's Facebook page.

A complete hard copy package of the meeting material was delivered to each Councillor on the weekend prior to this meeting. This provided opportunity for each councillor to review and submit questions on the individual items in the budget.

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Deputy Warden Gilbert

The Municipal Clerk called the roll with the following Councillors being present, Councillor Porter, Councillor Chase, Councillor vanVulpen, Warden Gillis, Councillor Welton, Councillor Palmer, Councillor Rector, Deputy Warden Gilbert, Councillor McLellan, Councillor Fletcher, Councillor Williams Councillor Jackson, and Councillor Rafuse.

**Staff Present:** Rennie Bugley, CAO, Andrew MacDonald, Director of Finance; Steven Ferguson, Director of Community Development; Deana Pike, Manager of Financial Services; Justin Waugh-Cress, Director of Engineering and Operations; Shelley Hoeg, Communications and Executive Secretary to the CAO; Dannie Sampson, IT; Amanda MacLeod, Sustainable Communities Marketing Officer; Vicki Weaver Recreation and Physical Activities Coordinator; and Brenda Moore, Municipal Clerk who recorded the minutes.

**Media Present:** Bill Martin Six Rivers News  
Darrell Cole, Saltwire

#### **2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES:**

##### **2.1 Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as circulated

#### **3. MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES**

##### **3.1 Draft Summary 2021/2022 Operating Budget**

Director of finance reviewed the document 2021/2022 Projected Operating Budget which was included in the meeting package

3.2 Low Income Tax Exemption Policy

**It was moved by Councillor Jackson seconded by Councillor Fletcher to give notice that Council will consider adopting new thresholds in the Low Income Tax Exemption Policy at the June 3, Council meeting.**

**No Objections  
MOTION CARRIED**

3.3 Budget Decisions

Andrew MacDonald Director of Finance reviewed the Budget Revisions document and the following motions were made by Council.

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Chase seconded by Councillor Porter to defer hiring for the Marketing and Promotions Officer and the Projects and Assets Officer positions until January 2021.**

**0 Objections to the motion  
13 in favour of the motion  
MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Fletcher seconded by Councillor Chase to defer hiring for the Marketing and Promotions Officer and the Projects and Assets Officer positions until the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year.**

**2 Objections to the motion  
11 in favour of the motion  
MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Jackson seconded by Councillor Porter to budget \$546,500 for Grants to Organizations in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.**

**8 Objections to the motion  
5 in favour of the motion  
MOTION DEFEATED**

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor McLellan to increase the budget for Grants to Organizations in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.**

**Motion died for want of a seconder**

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Gillis seconded by Councillor Welton to budget \$575,000 for Grants to Organizations in the 2020-2021 fiscal year**

**7 Objections to the motion  
6 in favour of the motion  
MOTION DEFEATED**

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Chase seconded by Councillor Fletcher to budget \$500,000 for Grants to Organizations in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.**

**3 Objections to the motion  
10 in favour of the motion  
MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Chase seconded by Councillor Jackson to direct staff to include \$28,000 in the 2020-2021 Fiscal year budget for the Glooscap Campground**

**3 Objections to the motion  
10 in favour of the motion  
MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor McLellan seconded by Councillor Fletcher to keep the Transfer Stations open.**

**3 Objections to the motion  
10 in favour of the motion  
MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Porter seconded by Councillor Chase to include \$40,000 in the 2020-2021 Budget for implementing e-voting.**

**5 Objections to the motion  
8 in favour of the motion  
MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Rector seconded by Councillor Jackson to not implement a user fee system at the Septage Disposal Facility.**

**7 Objections to the motion  
6 in favour of the motion  
MOTION DEFEATED**

**IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Chase seconded by Councillor Rector to defer salary increment increases to the non-union staff for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year**

**5 Objections to the motion  
8 in favour of the motion  
MOTION CARRIED**

**It was the consensus of Council to initiate a \$41 flat rate per property for those properties on all rural street light systems.**

#### 3.4 Budget Process and Draft Motions

It was the consensus of Council to direct staff to prepare a Draft budget for presentation to Council at the May 20, 2020 Council meeting including the adjustments made through motions of Council at this meeting.

#### 4. **ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY / BYLAW ISSUES**

There were no Organizational Policy of By-Law issues for this meeting.

#### 5. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8: 40 p.m.



**PUBLIC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**AGENDA PACKAGE**

**For the meeting of**

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Zoom Meeting

**AGENDA PACKAGE**  
**PUBLIC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Zoom Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES**

2.1 Approval of Agenda

3. **MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES**

3.1 **Draft Summary 2021/22 Operating Budget**

Staff have completed high-level estimates to arrived at a projected operating budget for the 2021/22 fiscal year. Report attached.

3.2 **Low Income Exemption Policy**

Attached is a memo regarding the low-income exemption policy. Council normally reviews this policy as part of the budget process.

3.3 **Budget decisions**

Report attached summarizing previously discussed options to balance the budget.

3.4 **Budget Approval Process**

Memo attached outlining the motions that are required to approve the budget. We have included budget approval on the agenda for the May 20<sup>th</sup> regular Council meeting in the event Council is prepared to finalize the budget after this meeting.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

# 3.1 Projected 2021/22 Operating Budget

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council

**FROM:** Andrew MacDonald  
Deana Pike

**DATE:** May 15, 2020

**RE:** 2021/22 Projected Operating Budget

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Since many of the reductions in this year's budget relate to the impact of COVID 19, Council requested staff to prepare projections for the 2021/22 budget year to help gain a better understanding of the future impact of the temporary measures undertaken this year.

The attached summary shows the projected revenues and expenditures for the general operating fund for the 2021/22 fiscal year. Based on our assumptions we are projecting an overall budget shortfall of approximately \$725,000.

Major assumptions include:

- No growth in residential and commercial tax revenue.
- The 2021/22 budget not adversely affected by Covid 19
- All services are maintained at the pre-Covid 19 services levels
- Many of the expenditure estimates have been based trends of our actuals over the past three years.
- Salaries and benefits based on current salary scales and include and allowance for cost of living and performance-based increments.
- Transfer to reserves have been maintained at the same levels budgeted for 2020
- Reduction of 2.5 RCMP officers included

As these are estimates based on broad assumptions, we must keep in mind the a +/-1% variance in expenditures equals about \$300,000.

	Budget 2020	Projection 2021	
Taxes	\$ (23,449,754.04)	\$ (23,449,754.04)	Assumes no growth in property tax revenue
Grants in Lieu	\$ (2,435,153.00)	\$ (2,435,153.00)	Assumes no growth in grants in lieu
Sale of Service	\$ (45,000.00)	\$ (45,000.00)	Same as 2020 budget
Own Source Revenue	\$ (961,247.00)	\$ (1,020,000.00)	Assume back to pre COVID activity and reduction for ice rentals
Unconditional Grants	\$ (1,456,047.00)	\$ (1,456,047.00)	Same as 2020 budget
Contional Grants	\$ (310,000.00)	\$ (231,600.00)	Only Parrsborro transition and road funding, MPAL, Student Grants, Teen Center Funding and Nature Fund
Transfers From Own Funds	\$ (870,380.60)	\$ (856,196.40)	Based on actual long term debt payments
Transfer from Reserves	\$ (140,904.36)	\$ -	
	<u>\$ (29,668,486.00)</u>	<u>\$ (29,493,750.44)</u>	
Advertising	\$ 113,950.00	\$ 71,000.00	Three average actuals plus 2%
Allowance for uncollectables	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	Same as 2020 budget
Contracted services	\$ 3,079,067.07	\$ 3,029,808.94	Three average actuals plus 2%
	\$ 10,918,418.01	\$ 10,736,015.97	Includes reduction of 2.5 RCMP Officers, increased Regional library by \$47,000, historical percentage increases for other manadatory costs
Purchase of goods and services from the public sector			
Grants and transfers to organizations	\$ 685,493.00	\$ 685,493.00	Maintain 2020 budget
Insurance	\$ 305,309.65	\$ 311,752.75	2019 actual plus 2%
Interest on long-term debt	\$ 531,410.42	\$ 494,903.49	Per long-term debt schedule
Interest on short-term debt	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 67,856.14	three average actuals
Leases	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	Maintain 2020 budget
Materials, goods, supplies	\$ 1,944,722.48	\$ 1,875,746.44	Three average actuals plus 2%
Other expenses	\$ 60,986.00	\$ 47,475.74	Three average actuals plus 2%
Principal on long-term debt	\$ 1,184,954.00	\$ 1,184,954.00	Per long-term debt schedule
Professional Services	\$ 347,792.00	\$ 285,161.75	Three average actuals plus 2%
	\$ 5,941,126.26	\$ 6,740,084.00	Assume 1% CPI increase for non-union & 2% increase for unionized staff, step increments, reduced council size for the year, students included, removed term positions and removed election salary costs
Salaries, wages, and benefits			
Tax Exemptions	\$ 366,000.00	\$ 378,462.31	2019 actual plus 2%
Transfers To Own Funds	\$ 1,706,585.54	\$ 1,706,585.54	Maintain 2020 budget
Transfers To/From Own Funds	\$ 699,501.04	\$ 713,432.21	2019 actual plus 2% (hydrant rentals)
Travel Professional Development	\$ 289,654.04	\$ 337,405.61	Three average actuals plus 2%
Utilities	\$ 1,300,071.48	\$ 1,326,072.91	2020 budget plus 2%
	<u>\$ 29,761,040.99</u>	<u>\$ 30,218,210.80</u>	
	\$ 92,554.99	\$ 724,460.36	

## 3.2 Low Income Exemption Policy

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council

**FROM:** Andrew MacDonald and Jennifer Moore

**DATE:** May 13, 2020

**RE:** Low income Exemption Information

In accordance with the policy the income cut off levels and exemption values have increased by an amount equal to the annual average change in the Consumer Price Index, all-items, for the Province of Nova Scotia for the previous calendar year, as determined by Statistics Canada, which was 1.6%. Following this we would provide exemptions based on the thresholds below:

Annual Income	Tax Exemption
Equal to or under \$18,373	\$314
Between \$18,374 and \$20,803	\$217

In 2019/2020 a total of 248 low income applications were processed for the County of Cumberland. The total exemption amounts provided were \$68,327.41.

Cumberland ranks in the top 3 low-income community in the province. Poverty rates are well over 30 percent for Cumberland residents as per “Where the poor people live: Stats Canada puts Nova Scotia poverty on the map – by Robert Devet, September 18, 2017” One in three residents of Cumberland are in poverty.

According to Statistics Canada LICO for a single person is \$20,301 and for a family of 4 it is \$37,722

### Low income cut -offs (LICOs) before and after tax by community size and family size, in current dollars [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)

Community size <sup>4</sup>	Family size	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Population under 30,000	1 person	19,053	19,266	19,540	19,844	20,301
	2 persons	23,718	23,983	24,324	24,703	25,271
	3 persons	29,158	29,484	29,903	30,369	31,068
	4 persons	35,403	35,799	36,308	36,874	37,722
	5 persons	40,153	40,602	41,180	41,821	42,783
	6 persons	45,287	45,793	46,444	47,168	48,253
	7 persons or more	50,420	50,984	51,709	52,514	53,722



Neighboring municipalities offer the following for low income:

Municipality	Tax Exemption	Family Size/ Family Income	Additional Information
Town of Amherst (2019)	\$450	\$25,000	
Town of New Glasgow (2019)	\$345	\$20,418	
Municipality of Colchester (2019)	1 Adult - \$195.17 2 Adults - \$260.23 3 Adults- \$325.29	1 Adult - \$25,838 or less 2 Adults - \$34,126 or less 3 Adults - \$40,951 or less	
Municipality of East Hants (2020)	min exemption of \$227 or 20% of annual tax bill		<b>Base Exemption amounts</b>
*East Hants uses line 260 taxable income and require cra notice and child tax benefit as proof		1 Adult - \$19,794 2 Adults - \$24,771 1 Adult + 1 Child - \$37,620 3 persons - \$46,302 4 persons - \$56,141 5 persons - \$63,665 6 + persons - \$71,768	<b>Base - \$227</b> <b>Enfield – USR \$251</b> <b>Elmsdale – USR \$251</b> <b>Lantz – USR \$251</b> <b>Milford – USR \$279</b> <b>Shubenacadie – USR \$297</b>

In order for the Municipality to align their low-income exemption policy with neighboring units and reach our target residents with this exemption, the Finance Department is recommending that the Annual Income thresholds be increased as follows:

Annual Income	Tax Exemption
Equal to or under \$20,301	\$450
Between \$20,302 and \$31,068	\$225

**If Council is in Agreement a motion giving notice that this policy will be considered for adoption would be in order.**

Once approved Applications will be mailed to those who applied for this exemption in 2019 and will be e-mailed to first contact at all three service centers. We will further post the new application on our website and advertise in the newspaper.

## 3.3 Decisions to Balance Budget

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council

**FROM:** Andrew MacDonald

**DATE:** May 17, 2020

**RE:** 2020/21 Budget Decisions

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### **Summary of Last week's Discussion**

Attached is table summarizing the specific items discussed under agenda item 3.5 - Decisions to Finalize the Budget at the May 13<sup>th</sup> budget meeting. We have sorted the list based on Council responses with those with a clear majority listed first. We have also removed the option to reduce interest rate on outstanding taxes and listed tax rate increases at the bottom.

For each we have included a summary of Council's responses, cost savings/cost increases for this year and if applicable future years.

### **Tax Revenue Update**

Since our last meeting staff have processed appeal changes received from Property Valuation Services Corporation. Based on these appeals our residential and commercial tax revenue has decreased by \$60,504, therefore our most recent estimated budget shortfall is in the range of \$95,000.

### **2019/2020 Surplus**

At last week's meeting Council did not support a general transfer from last year's surplus to balance the budget without additional discussion about the options.

In thinking about last year's surplus, we should keep in mind that some specific one-time projects had been included in last year's budget that were not undertaken or completed and have been carried forward to this year. The most significant example would be that last year we budgeted \$50,000 for the Tourism Strategy. Utilizing surplus to address for this type of timing issue has been done in the past.

		2020-21	2021-22	Five Year
<b>Delay Hiring's</b>  Marketing & Promotion Officer Projects & Assets Officer  Responses from May 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree with Delaying, 10</li> <li>• No Comment, 3</li> </ul>	Consider delayed hiring from Sep to Jan 2021.	\$ 44,027		
	Also, might want to consider not hiring this year, additional 3 month savings.	\$ 29,350	n/a	n/a
	Defer Hiring indefinitely		\$ 140,429	\$ 702,145
<b>Grants to Organizations</b>  Responses from May 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce amount in budget, 7</li> <li>• Increase amount in budget, 1</li> <li>• No Comment, 5</li> </ul>	Limited Budgeted \$437,715	\$ 108,785	\$ 108,785	\$ 543,925
	Current Budget \$546,500	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
	Recommended Option \$628,433	-\$ 81,933	-\$ 81,933	-\$ 409,665
<b>Glooscap Campground</b>  Responses from May 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep Open, 8</li> <li>• Open and increase fees, 3</li> <li>• Open, review fees, sell or lease, 1</li> <li>• Sell, 1</li> </ul>	Open for seasonal only. Currently net cost of \$15,000 in the budget there would still be some fixed costs if decided not to open.	-\$ 28,000		
	Sell, save annual operating deficit of \$15,000 plus any future capital investment		\$ 15,000	\$ 75,000

		<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>Five Year</b>
<p><b>Transfer Stations</b></p> <p>Responses from May 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close, 7</li> <li>• Open, 4</li> <li>• Communicate, 1</li> <li>• Getting concerns, 1</li> </ul>	<p>To keep transfer stations closed for the remainder of the year. If decided to close permanently the annual savings would be between \$200,000 to \$300,000.</p>	\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,000,000
<p><b>E voting</b></p> <p>Responses from May 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove from budget, 6</li> <li>• Leave in budget, 5</li> <li>• No comment, 2</li> </ul>	<p>Removal of the e voting software and support (call center) would save \$40,000.</p>	\$40,000	n/a	<b>-\$40,000</b>
<p><b>Septage User Fees</b></p> <p>Responses from May 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No fees, 3</li> <li>• Implement fees, 2</li> <li>• No Comment, 8</li> </ul>	<p>Implement user fees to fund septage facility assuming a fall implementation. Full year would be \$94,000. Would require capital investment card system (Gas Tax)</p>	\$ 38,000	\$ 94,000	\$ 470,000

		<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>Five Year</b>
<b>Defer Salary Increments (non-union)</b>  Responses from May 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defer, 6</li> <li>• No comment, 7</li> </ul>	Consider equality of treating unionized vs non-unionized in the same organization. There are 48 non-unionized staff members due for a step increment. Step increments are meant to align with professional development reviews and a step is given if performance warrants an increase.	\$ 96,392	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>RCMP Staffing reductions</b>		\$ 0	\$ 400,000	\$ 2,000,000
<b>Tax Rate Increase (one cent)</b>  Responses from May 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No increase, 8</li> <li>• No comment, 5</li> </ul>		\$ 153,000	\$ 153,000	\$ 765,000

## 3.4 Budget Process and Draft Motions

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council

**FROM:** Andrew MacDonald

**DATE:** May 15, 2020

**RE:** 2020/21 Budget

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Council met on Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup> to review and discuss the draft operating budget for the 2020/21 fiscal year.

Discussion included:

- A review of operations and projected surplus for the 2019/2020 fiscal year
- Update on draft 2019/20 Financial Conditions Indicators
- Estimated impact of COVID 19 on current year's operations and budget
- Actions taken by staff to balance the budget
- High level review of the draft 2020/21 budgeted revenue and expenditures
- Input from Council on several options to finalize the budget

Since many of the reductions in this year's budget relate to the impact of COVID 19, Council requested staff to prepare projections for the 2021/22 budget year to help gain a better understanding of the future impact of the temporary measures undertaken this year.

A second Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> a 6:00 pm. Depending on the outcome of this meeting, Council may be in the position to approve the budget at the Regular Council meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Attached are the draft motions that are required to approve the annual budget. These motions will be updated once Council's makes their final recommendations. At this point we have included the same tax rates and area rates as last year, except for the Parrsboro Sewer rate.

No final decision has been made with respect to the Parrsboro Sewer Rate or Proposed Local Improvement Charge. These rates and charges will not be approved as part of the overall budget.

Public hearings are scheduled for the Public Sewers and Local Improvement Bylaws on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Council will make a decision on these bylaws at a future meeting.

Any rates or charges resulting from Council's decision relating to the Parrsboro Sewer will be billed separately from this year's tax bill.



**1. Estimates of Revenues and Expenditures**

That Council accept the following estimate of sums totaling \$ \_\_\_\_\_, which are required by the Municipality of Cumberland for the fiscal period ending March 31, 2021, prepared in accordance to Section 72 of the Municipal Government Act:

2020/21  
Budget

- Revenue
- Tax
- Grants in Lieu
- Sale of Service
- Own Source Revenue
- Unconditional Grants
- Conditional Grants
- Transfers from Own Funds and Agencies
- Collections for Villages
- Transmission of Taxes to Villages
- Total Revenue

- Expenditures
- General Government
- Protective
- Transportation
- Environmental Health
- Public Health
- Environmental Development
- Recreation and Culture
- Education
- Total Expenditures

**2. Tax Rates**

That the tax rates for the Municipality of Cumberland for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021 be approved as follows:

**General tax rates**

- Residential            \$1.19 per \$100 of assessment
- Commercial            \$2.76 per \$100 of assessment

**Area rates on properties in the community of Springhill**

- Residential            \$0.86 per \$100 of assessment
- Commercial            \$2.18 per \$100 of assessment

**Area rates on properties in the community of Parrsboro**

- Residential            \$0.48 per \$100 of assessment
- Commercial            \$1.19 per \$100 of assessment

**3. Sewer Rates**

That the unit rates for each of the sewage collection and treatment systems for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021 be approved as follows:

Springhill	\$265
Amherst Marsh	\$439
Biggs Drive	\$439
Joggins	\$439
Joggins Extension	\$559
Maccan	\$439
Pugwash	\$439
River Hebert	\$439
Wallace	\$439

**4. Street Lights – County Systems**

That the flat rates per assessment account for street light systems for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021 be approved as follows:

SystemRate		System Rate	
Advocate	42.54	Maccan	88.92
Apple River	61.05	New Salem 1	77.42
Athol Road	35.69	New Salem 2	88.97
Biggs Drive	50.62	Oxford Junction	55.23
Brookdale	68.63	Port Greville	68.00
Cochrane Road	48.86	Port Howe	51.82
Collingwood	56.91	Pugwash Centre	41.19
Crossroads	56.88	River Hebert	75.45
Dorsay Road	52.38	River Philip	57.97
Fort Lawrence	89.79	South Pugwash	54.55
Fox River	48.60	Spencer's Island	81.00
Greenville Station	76.25	Wallace	47.66
Hastings Road	65.78	Ward's Brook	54.09
Hunter Road	45.46	West Advocate	48.46
Joggins	73.46	West Amherst	88.46
Leamington	82.80	Westchester	65.15

**5. Village Rates**

That that following village rates be billed and collected at the same time and in the same manner as municipal taxes:

<b>River Hebert</b>	\$0.10 per \$100 of assessment
<b>Pugwash</b>	
Residential	\$0.32 per \$100 of assessment
Commercial	\$0.39 per \$100 of assessment

**6. Maintenance and Improvement of Private Road By-law**

That that following rates for the maintenance and improvement of private roads be billed and collected at the same time and in the same manner as municipal taxes:

Jackson’s Point Road Association \$31.67 per assessment account

### **7. Due Date**

That the due date for the 2020/21 tax levy be July 3, 2020 with interest to be charged on outstanding tax accounts on or after July 4, 2020 at the rate of 1.25% per month, 15% per annum.

### **8. Five Year Capital Investment Plan 2020/21 to 2024/25**

That Council approve the five-year Capital Investment Plan as recommended by the Capital Investment Plan Committee totaling \$19,655,143

### **9. Press Release and Tax Bill Insert**

That Council approved the draft press release and tax bill insert as presented.

### **10. General Borrowing Resolution**

#### **GENERAL BORROWING RESOLUTION**

To authorize the borrowing of certain moneys from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce to meet the current expenditure of the Corporation of the Municipality of the County of Cumberland (hereinafter called "the Corporation") for the year ending March 31, 2021.

WHEREAS it is necessary to borrow the sum of \$11,500,000 (eleven million five hundred thousand dollars) from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce to meet the new current expenditures of the Corporation until such time as the taxes to be levied therefore can be collected;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Municipal Council of the Corporation as follows:

1. THAT the Warden and the Treasurer of the Corporation be, and they are hereby authorized under the seal of the Corporation to borrow from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce up to the sum of \$11,500,000 (eleven million five hundred thousand dollars) as the same may be required from time to time to meet the now current expenditures of the Corporation which said expenditures has been duly authorized by Council; and
2. THAT the said Warden with the Treasurer aforesaid, be, and they are hereby authorized to pay or allow to the said bank, interest on the sum of \$11,500,000 (eleven million five hundred thousand dollars) at Prime Rate per annum, which may be paid or allowed in advance by way of discount or otherwise howsoever as they may deem best; and
3. THAT the said sum of \$11,500,000 (eleven million five hundred thousand dollars) so to be borrowed shall be made payable on or before the 31st day of March, 2021, and the promissory note or notes of the Corporation, if any, given therefore, if made payable before the said 31st day of March, 2021, may be renewed by the said Warden and Treasurer from time to time, but no renewal thereof shall fall due later than the said 31st day of March, 2021; and
4. THAT the said promissory note or notes of the Corporation, sealed with the corporate seal and signed by the Warden and Treasurer of the Corporation be given from time to time as required, in security for the amounts borrowed from time to time under the provisions of this resolution; and
5. THAT giving of such renewal note or notes, as aforesaid, shall not be deemed satisfaction to the said bank of the said advance or interest, but as evidence only in indebtedness.

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Council

**FROM:** Andrew MacDonald

**DATE:** May 19, 2020

**RE:** Rural Street Lights

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Currently the Municipality of Cumberland has 32 separate rural street light systems consisting of approximately 950 lights. Each system have been rated individually with rates ranging from \$41 to \$119 per property.

In November 2019, the Municipality purchased street light assets from Nova Scotia Power. Any lights that have not been converted to LED fixtures by NS Power will be installed by the Municipality in the spring of 2020. Also, in the Spring/Summer of 2020, the Municipality will be issuing a tender for the ongoing maintenance.

It was agreed that once the LED project was undertaken, we would move to a uniform per unit rate versus the 32 individual rates currently charged.

At this point the exact street light costs for 2020/21 are not known. Below is an estimate for a uniform per property rate for Rural Street Light Systems based on a 60% cost saving and inclusion of a replacement reserve.

2021/20 Costs assuming a 60% savings	\$ 78,360
Replacement Reserve 20 year	<u>23,750</u>
Total to be rated	<u>\$ 102,110</u>
Total Properties Charged	<u>2,494</u>
Per Property Uniform Rate	<u>\$ 41.00</u>

For this year we would continue to recover streetlight cost within the former towns of Springhill and Parrsboro through the community area rates.