



News Release

Town Approves Budget for 2021

30 October 2020

ST. GEORGE – Council for the Town of St. George has passed its Budget for 2021, months earlier to its typical timeline. The budget was passed at a Special Meeting of Council last evening, 29 October 2020, at the Magaguadavic Center.

The budget, with a combined valued at just over \$3.21 million for both General Operations and Utility Operations, will require a tax rate increase of 1 cent, for a tax rate of \$1.41 per \$100.00 of assessment for 2021. The last rate change came in 2017 when the rate went from \$1.38 to \$1.40 and has held steady for the last three years.

In addition, water and sewage rates were approved for increase in 2021: fixed rate users, which consist of primarily residential and commercial users, will have an annual water rate of \$370.00 (up from \$365) and an annual sewage rate of \$165.00 (up from \$160), giving the total annual cost for a residential home at \$535, which is a \$10.00 increase annually.

For industrial users, metered water rate charges for the year 2021 will be \$3.31 per 1,000 gallons (up from \$2.54), and for sewage treatment a rate of \$3.31 per 1,000 gallons (up from \$2.54). The increase is primarily due to the experienced reduction in water/sewage demand from industrial users in 2020. The decrease in water usage was a result of both planned production cuts by some users as well as impacts to production from the global pandemic.

“As part of the 2020 budget, the Town utilized reserves to offset the forecasted decreased revenue in the Utility Operations Fund. However for 2021, we can only budget on the actual total water usage in the current year. Due to lower water figures for 2020 and the fact that we cannot utilize any further reserve funds, an increase in water rates was required.” said Acting Mayor Avery. “We are hopeful that metered rates will return to lower rates in 2022, should industrial usage normalize. The Utility Fund/Water Operations is funded almost entirely by user rates.”

Property assessments within the Town have increased to \$141,389,744 in 2021, a 1.5% increase over 2020. Cost for protection services will see increases in 2021; fire protection is forecasted at \$313,965 with police services (from the RCMP) costing \$448,767 in 2021.

Further budget information is available on the Town of St. George website at www.townofstgeorge.com or contact the Town Office at 506-755-4320.

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