

May 25, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES 2023-2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Antigonish, N.S. – At a special meeting held on May 23, 2023, Antigonish Town Council unanimously approved the 2023-2024 municipal budget of \$12,626,630 in operating costs and a capital project plan valued at \$3,490,181. The budget was approved with no changes to tax rates for residential and commercial properties.

“This is a good news budget,” says Mayor Laurie Boucher. “Council is pleased to see that accessibility and safety are key elements to this year’s budget. There are also considerable investments in community enhancement initiatives, and a remarkable capital plan with no increase in residential or commercial tax rates.”

Construction will begin on the Town’s Active Transportation (AT) Trail that, when complete, will connect with the County’s AT route on the Trunk 4, go down West Street and connect to St. Ninian Street, through to Columbus Field and out to the Landing.

“Town council is excited to see construction begin this year on the first section of the Active Transportation Trail. It’s a multi-year project that will be a wonderful addition to our community. It will be an attractive, safe, and accessible option for our residents to support a healthy and active lifestyle,” says Mayor Boucher.

The Town is committed to creating an accessible and safe community. In this year’s budget are monies allocated to tactile plates for intersections. Three new crosswalk beacons will be purchased, all of the pedestrian call buttons will be replaced, and the Antigonish Town Volunteer Fire Department will receive monies needed to purchase a new jaws of life.

This year’s capital project plan includes \$441,000 in paving projects, \$223,000 in sidewalk improvements, \$400,000 in bridge work, \$292,000 in upgrades for the Town’s storm and sanitary systems, and \$162,000 for a design of upgrades for Bay Street. Construction work on Bay Street will follow next year.

The Town’s partnership with Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA) and its 63% ownership of the Ellershouse Windfarm has resulted in \$400,000 contribution to this year’s capital project plan. Additional funding sources for the Town’s capital plants include \$339,784 from the Canada Community Building Fund (formally referred to as the Federal Gas Tax Program), \$952,678 in provincial and federal grant funding, and \$73,333 in shared project costs with the Municipality of the County of Antigonish for improvements to the Sewer Treatment Plant and other sewer infrastructure. Transfers from the AREA dividend, reserve funds, and other revenue make up the remaining \$1,724,385 for the capital project plan.

“Clean-up efforts and repairs to damage caused by Hurricane Fiona are still ongoing. We have had many downed trees in areas that could not be addressed before the winter so we are going back in areas around Chisholm and Carin Park to get them cleaned up. says Mayor Boucher. “We are also starting phase one of work on one of our Ball Field 3 at the Regional to address drainage and grading issues so our growing baseball community has better field access following heavy rain storms. This work will start at the tail end of the upcoming season as to not disrupt the current schedule.”

The Town will support and partner with local community organizations with \$183,000 allocated to the Community Grant Program. The Town is also proud to continue to support the Antigonish Arena, Antigonish Community Transit, Antigonish Affordable Housing, and the Antigonish Heritage Museum.

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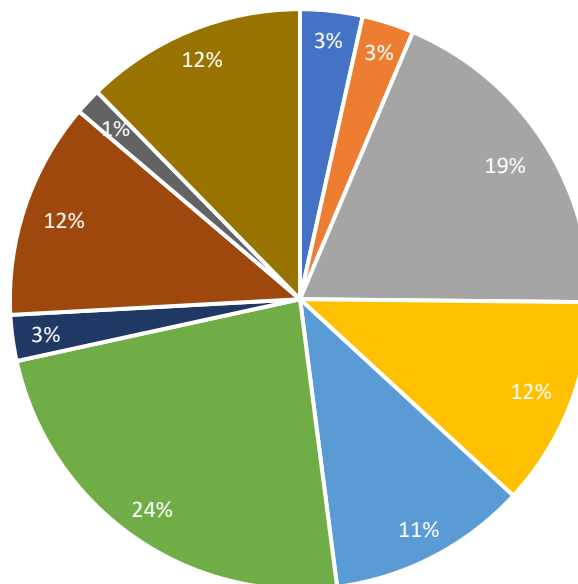
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How Are Your Tax Dollars Spent?

- Mayor & Council
- Administration
- Contributions to Capital & Financing
- Municipal Services
- Environmental Services
- Protective Services
- Community Partnerships
- Community Enhancement
- Community Grants
- Education

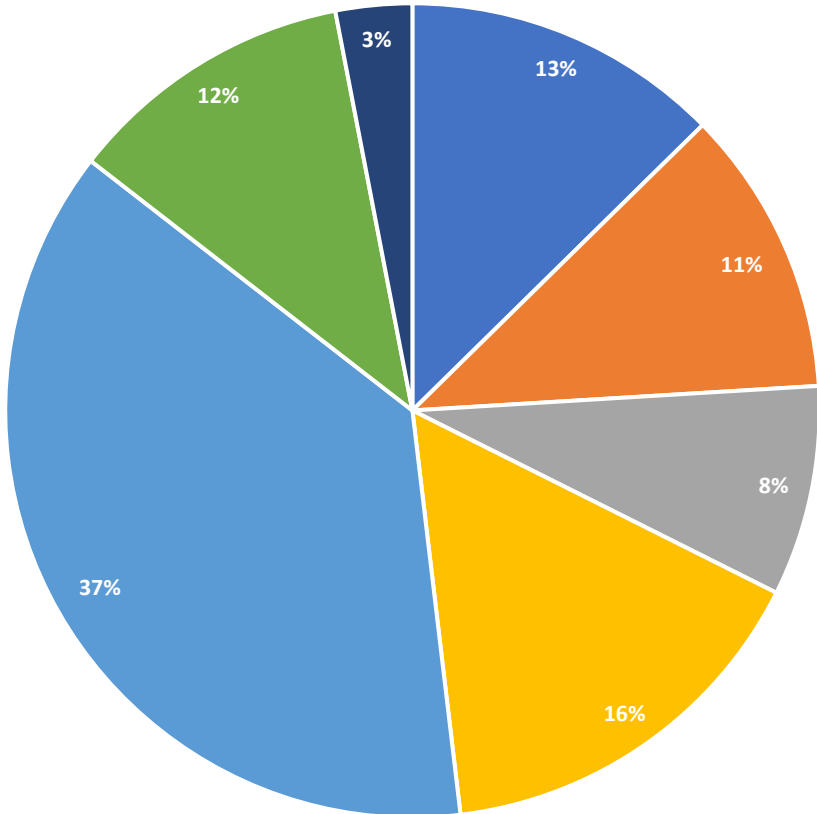


Mayor & Council	\$ 435,050	3%	Mayor & Council Expenses
Administration	\$ 362,126	3%	Administration Financial Services, Assessment Services
Contributions to Capital & Financing	\$ 2,354,626	19%	Capital out of Revenue, Principal, Debt Servicing
Municipal Services	\$ 1,463,789	12%	Engineering, Public Works, Road Transportation
Environmental Services	\$ 1,391,966	11%	Solid Waste, Sewage Treatment
Protective Services	\$ 2,958,810	24%	Policing, Fire, By-Law, Corrections*
Community Partnerships	\$ 320,858	3%	StFX Facilities, Arena, Heritage Museum, Transit, SMRHF
Community Enhancement	\$ 1,512,281	12%	Community Development, EDPC, Libraries*, Marketing & Communications, Recreation, Beautification, Housing*
Community Grants	\$ 183,111	1%	Awarded Based on an Application Process
Education	\$ 1,543,991	12%	Mandatory Contribution*

**These items are mandatory provincial responsibilities. Amounts of these contributions are not set by the Town of Antigonish.*

Breakdown of Capital Investments

- Paving
- Sidewalks & Curb
- Storm & Sanitary
- Municipal Assets
- Community Enhancement
- Bridges
- Accessibility



Paving	\$441,000	13%
Sidewalks & Curb	\$398,000	11%
Storm & Sanitary	\$291,500	8%
Municipal Assets	\$548,685	16%
Community Enhancement	\$1,304,996	37%
Bridges	\$400,000	11%
Accessibility	\$106,000	3%