

# Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

## 2022/2023 Municipal Operating and Capital Budget



### Budget Key Messages

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- The Municipality is presenting a balanced budget without requiring funds from the accumulated operating surplus.
- The operating budget this year is \$3,462,824. This represents a 5.08% increase over last year's budget.
- Tax rates will remain the same as last year and there will be no increases to area rates.
- Staff salary/wages and Councilor remunerations increased by 2.5% cost of living. This is lower than the Statistics Canada figure for Nova Scotia this year which was 4.8%.
- RCMP payments to the Province are increasing by 11.04% over last year's municipal contribution.
- Capital and Gas Tax expenditures for this year are \$221,000 and include the following projects:
  - Recplex Lighting Upgrade
  - Sherbrooke Sidewalks
  - Phase 3 Streetscapes Project
  - Dry Hydrant for Fire Services
  - Main Street Storm Sewer Drainage
  - Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
  - Sonora Rd Sewer Pump at Lift Station
  - J Class Roads
- Municipal General Government Grants are distributed in three different ways, District Grants (\$3,143 per district), Grants to Organizations (\$10,000) and School Scholarships (\$3,000). Additional grants are also provided, including tax exemptions for non-profit groups for community centers as well as grants to individuals through the Municipal Low-Income Property Tax Exemption.
- Fire Department Grants are budgeted for \$52,000 which includes opportunities for training.
- Council continues to advance efforts to increase library services and has established the "Seeds of Literacy" pilot program for the 2022/2023 fiscal to further supplement services.
- The Fitness Center is being planned to reopen (pending site approval) with a swipe card entry by registered members at no charge for a one-year trial period. This project would include the implementation of volunteer system with appropriate policies and procedures. The Municipality is also looking forward to the completion of the Recreation Master Plan this year.
- After the completion of the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law updates, the Municipality will be initiating a new Land Development Committee to explore the best ways to utilize municipal land for the growth of St. Mary's. Funds have been allocated to help advance efforts of this committee and new opportunities within the Municipality.
- A Budget Open House will be scheduled this year due to the easing of covid restrictions.