

Table of Contents

4.1 2026-03-04 Letter from Town of Middleton re: Recreation Grant	3
5.1 SR2026-37 2026-2027 Budget Approval	5

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANNAPOLIS

SPECIAL MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

2:00 p.m.



PAGES	1.	ROLL CALL
	2.	DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST
	3.	APPROVAL OF AGENDA
	4.	CORRESPONDENCE
3-4	4.1	2026-03-04 Letter from Town of Middleton re: Recreation Grant
	5.	STAFF REPORTS
5-9	5.1	SR2026-37 2026-2027 Budget Approval
	5.2	2026-2027 Budget Book (separate document)
	6.	NEW BUSINESS
	7.	ADJOURNMENT

March 4, 2026

Warden and Council
Municipality of the County of Annapolis
752 St. George Street
Annapolis Royal, NS B0S 1A0

Dear Council:

Re: Recreation Grant

The County has been giving the Town a grant for many years to support recreation services. Historically this grant has been under \$10,000, but in 2024-2025 the County granted \$80,000 to the Town of Middleton which was most helpful. In 2025-2026, the grant was \$20,000. These grant funds help support our Town-run recreation programs and maintenance of our four parks. Town-run programs include equipment rentals, Learn to Run, and multiple other programs that our recreation department offers to the public. The grant funding does not go towards the rink, pool or library as these entities are operated by boards or societies and receive annual grants from the Town.

The 2019-2023 five-year average for the breakdown of participants in our recreation programs was Town – 34% and County – 66%.

In our last forecast presented to Council, we were estimating to spend approximately \$391,290 on recreation services for 2025-2026. We have continued some of our programming from the prior year, including: laser tag, karaoke nights, a teen dance, Activate Your Neighborhood challenges,

- Two basketball skills camps
- New porta-potties at the Wetland Trail and year-round access at Centennial Park
- Movie nights, paint nights and Open Gym
- Guided community walks and snowshoe events
- Opportunities for the public to try new equipment at our parks
- A guided Witch Walk in connection with the Haunted House at the MacDonald Museum

In 2025-2026 we had new programs including a free weekly Zumba class and a paid Core Connections fitness class, paint nights, para hockey sessions, wreath making workshops, Titan Training, and drop-in Judo and Open gym time. We are excited to continue building more programs in 2026-2027!

Given the positive impact the increased grant from the County is having on the Town's ability to continue to provide existing and new recreation services to the public, we respectfully request that the County of Annapolis provide a grant of \$60,000 in the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

We appreciate your consideration of this request in your 2026-2027 budget deliberations.

Sincerely,



Gail Smith

Mayor

Town of Middleton



STAFF REPORT

Report To: Municipal Council
Meeting Date: March 17, 2026
Prepared By: Paul Wills, Director of Finance
Report Number: SR2026-37 2026-2027 Budget Approval
Subject: Approval of 2026-27 Operating Budget, 5-year Capital Investment Plan, and tax rates

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That municipal council approve the proposed 2026-2027 operating budget reflecting revenues of \$29,060,700 and expenditures of \$29,060,700.

That municipal council approve the 2026-2027 operating budget base taxation rates for all residential and resource assessments of \$1.025 per \$100 of assessment, and a commercial tax rate of \$1.80 per \$100 of assessment.

That municipal council approve 2026-2027 operating budget area rates for all residential and resource assessments in Bridgetown of 34.78 cents per \$100 of assessment, and a commercial area rate of 55.60 cents per \$100 of assessment, and a taxation area rate for all properties in the Village of Lawrencetown of the amount to be approve by the Lawrencetown Village Commission.

That municipal council approve fire hydrant taxation rates for the 2026-2027 fiscal year based on \$100 of assessment as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| • Margaretsville | District 2 | 9.02 cents |
| • Inglewood | District 3 | 18.78 cents |
| • Granville Ferry | District 4/5 | 13.87 cents |
| • Carleton Corner | District 7 | 16.11 cents |
| • Church Street, Bridgetown N | District 3 | 7.08 cents |
| • Middleton | Districts 2/10 | 24.48 cents |
| • Cornwallis Park | District 6 | 27.52 cents |
| • Bridgetown | District 3/7 | 23.68 cents |

That municipal council approve a 2026-2027 operating budget area rate for the provision of streetlights per \$100 of all assessment accounts of 3.41 cents.

That municipal council approve fire taxation rates for the 2026-2027 fiscal year based on \$100 of assessment as follows:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| • Kingston Fire Commission | Districts 1/11 | to be determine by Fire Commission |
| • Fire capital | All districts | 6.11 cents |
-

That municipal council approve street paving taxation rates for the 2026-2027 fiscal year based on \$100 of assessment as follows:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| • Cameron Drive | District 1 | 1.21 cents |
| • Brookside/Pine Grove | District 1 | 5.02 cents |
| • Bradley Street | District 1 | 3.26 cents |
| • Ward Estates | District 11 | \$366.40 (lump sum) |
-

That municipal council approve the due date for property taxation bills of June 30, 2026, and that all rates and taxes outstanding after this date be subject to interest at a rate of 12% per annum.

That municipal council approve a sewer rate for all publicly connected properties or have the ability to connect to the County sanitary sewer system of \$618.42 per year; and for all properties connected or have the ability to connect to the Bridgetown sanitary sewer system, a rate of \$2.99 per cubic meter plus a quarterly base rate of \$24.34.

That municipal council approve the proposed 5-year Capital Investment Plan reflecting financial investments over 5 years of \$30,385,000; and a 2026-2027 capital investment of \$3,010,000.

BACKGROUND

Municipality of the County of Annapolis is required to adopt a balanced operating budget annually and approve a 5-year capital investment plan. The budgets reflect the strategic priorities of Council and show where the financial priorities of the community lie through the leadership of Council.

Annually, the budgeting process includes balancing financial pressures from other levels of government that are out of the municipality's control, the goals and requests from community members and community groups, and the internal financial pressures of providing safe, cost-effective infrastructure, programs, and services. This year remained challenging as the cost of goods and services continues to increase, with capped assessment increasing 2.6%. While

inflationary pressures have loosened since the prior fiscal year there is significant international political uncertainty in the economy today, presenting socio-economic pressure for local businesses and residents.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 31 of the Municipal Government Act states that:

- (1) The chief administrative officer shall
 - (a) Coordinate and direct the preparation of plans and programs to be submitted to the council for the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of all municipal property and facilities.
 - (b) Ensure that the annual operating budget and capital budgets are prepared and submitted to council.

DISCUSSION

The proposed operating budget keeps the Residential, Commercial, Resource, Street Lights, and Fire Capital tax rates for all assessment districts the same as 2025-2026. However, the Bridgetown Residential and Commercial Community Rates are increasing a small amount. The Hydrant rates for Margaretsville, Inglewood, Grandville Ferry, Church Street, and Bridgetown are seeing a decrease while Carleton Corner, Middleton and Cornwallis Park are seeing an increase. The Paving rates are all decreasing with the exception of Chipman/Baxter as the funding for this area has been fully paid in 2025-2026. Additionally, the costs to operate and repair aging infrastructure in the Bridgetown sewer system has resulted in an increase of 6.7% to the quarterly base rate for Bridgetown residents. The Bridgetown variable rate increased \$0.19 per cubic meter. The County Sewer rate is being held so the County residents will not see an increase.

General Government expenditures have increased 12.6% due to increases in the education funding, the CAO office and the Accounting division. The increase in the amount required for education by the Province which is not under the control of Council. The CAO office has an increase due to a reallocation of communication staff and the addition of an Economic Development Officer to focus on economic development opportunities in the County. The Accounting cost centre has increased due to a significant allocation to the Operating Reserve to begin the process of growing our reserves.

Protective Services expenditures have increased 6.5% due to an increase in the RCMP amounts required by the Province which is not under the control of Council.

Transportation expenditures have decreased by .5% due to an increase in road contracts which are offset by debt being paid off in 2025-2026. There are also further reductions due to allocating portions of the Public Works Facilities and Fleet expenditures to the Water and Sewer systems.

Environmental Health Services expenditures have increased by 10% due to increases to the two Sewer Reserves along with an increase in various maintenance for the plant, SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system, pumps and lift stations. These increases are partly offset by a decrease in Solid Waste expenditures due to the recycling component being taken over by producers due to the implementation of EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility).

Environmental Development Services expenditures are down 2.3% due to some planning contracts are now being done in house.

Recreation & Cultural Services expenditures are up 25.4% due to increases in the Bridgetown Arena expenditures mainly due to an increase in operating costs and a new refrigeration contract. Parks & Trails expenditures are up due to a reallocation of wages to proper reflect the time staff works on the parks and trails, an increase in maintenance and operational materials and increases in Jubilee Park maintenance and the additional of the new Bear River Comfort Station expenditures. These are offset by a reduction in Strategic Initiatives expenditures.

The 2026-2027 capital budget includes critical infrastructure upgrades from road rehabilitation to investing in water and sewer infrastructure. There are a few larger, critical projects that are required including continuing an upgrade to the Bridgetown Sewage Lagoon. Recreation upgrades include upgrades to the Hollow Mountain Park, Munroe Lake Landing, Whispering Pines Park and Shannon River Park. In addition, the capital plan has funds to put in sidewalks in Bear River.

Policy 105 includes a low-income exemption of \$425 for property owners whose total household income the preceding year is below \$32,000. This policy is Council's investment in those less fortunate within the communities.

The budget today was prepared and deliberated respecting fiscal responsibility, managing partnership expectations, and investing in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2026-2027 Tax and Area Rates schedule

Prepared by: Paul Wills, CPA, CMA
Director of Finance

Approved by:

Approval Date:



Rob Frost
Chief Administrative Officer

(Date)

**Municipality of the County of Annapolis
2026/27 Property Tax and Area Rates**

Property Taxes	District #	Rate
Residential		1.025
Resource		1.025
Commercial		1.80
Commercial Forest (per acre)		0.40
Forest (per acre)		0.25
Farm		Exempt
Recreation (per acre)		54.63

Fire Hydrants	District #	Rate
Margaretsville	2	0.0902
Inglewood	3	0.1878
Granville Ferry	4, 5	0.1387
Carleton Corner	7	0.1611
Church Street, Bridgetown N	3	0.0708
Middleton	2, 10	0.2448
Cornwallis Park	6	0.2752
Bridgetown	3, 7	0.2368

Paving Rates	District #	Rate
Cameron Dr.	1	0.0121
Brookside/Pine Grove	1	0.0502
Bradley St.	1	0.0326
Ward Estates	11	\$366.40 (per lot)

Fire Services	District #	Rate
Kingston Fire Protection	1, 11	TBD
Fire Capital		0.0611

Community Rates	District #	Rate
Village of Lawrencetown	10	TBD
Bridgetown - Residential		0.3478
Bridgetown - Commercial		0.5560

Other Area Rates	District #	Rate
Streetlighting	all	0.0341

Note: all rates are expressed as a \$ value per \$100 of assessed value of the property, with the exception of the Ward Estates rate which is an annual lump sum payment