
Committee of the Whole Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2025
Berwick Town Hall Council Chambers
6:30 pm

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes**
 - a. January 28, 2025 COTW Minutes
 - b. February 3, 2025 Special COTW Minutes
- 4. Review of Action Items**
- 5. Presentations**
 - a. Accessibility & Equity Plan 2025 – Taylor Boylan & Jordan Hebb
- 6. New Business**
 - a. Supplementary Report – Benjamin Grove Development
 - b. Information Report - Operating & Capital Budgets – V2
- 7. Department Reports**
 - a. Fire Department
 - b. Community Development
 - c. Public Works
 - d. Finance
 - e. CAO
- 8. Committee Reports**
 - a. AREA
 - b. Annapolis Valley Regional Library
 - c. Audit Committee
 - d. Community Development Committee
 - e. Accessibility Committee
 - f. Valley REN Liaison & Oversight Committee
 - g. Interim ISMA Report (Valley Waste/Kings Transit)
- 9. Correspondence**
 - a. Correspondence regarding a Provincial reduction to Inter-Provincial Trade Barriers and Resource development

- b. Grant application request – Kings County Seniors’ Safety Soc.
- c. Basic Income Public Meeting

10. Mayor’s Report

11. In-Camera

12. Adjournment

Meeting Date	Action Item	Status
2024-12-10	Reach out to other municipalities to understand how they are assessing the Code of Conduct criteria for establishing the sanctions	Not Started
2024-12-10	Electricity Regulations, educational materials to provide to Council on the Council SharePoint site.	Not Started
2024-12-10	Appoint an independent investigator into the Code of Conduct.	In-Progress
2024-12-10	Schedule CAP to present to Council	In-Progress
2024-12-10	Survey what/if other municipalities are doing to respond to the ban the use of NDAs, related to sexual violence cases, for every business, institution or organization that receives Municipal funding or recognition.	In-Progress
2025-01-14	Reserves for IMSA organizations? Is the Interim IMSA work going to provide direction/opinion on this?	Not Started
2025-01-14	Number of fines written by RCMP and how does it get directed to Town of Berwick revenue	In-Progress
2025-01-14	Planning Fee review and determine whether changes to the MPS will change our planning services fees, whether a staff person makes sense and look at similar size MU for comparison on changes to MPS vs. costs	In-Progress
2025-01-14	Is there revenue from VCFN that is returned to the owner parties?	Not Started
2025-01-14	Flush out the costs for parks and bylaw to present to the public for feedback and look at contract, sharing of service with other municipalities and contract for audit resources.	In-Progress
2025-02-03	Explore a community calendar to share community events and what is going on in the gym?	In-Progress
2025-02-03	Are the connector trails being cleared as part of snow removal/winter maintenance?	Completed
2025-02-03	Direct them to Valley Waste - Food Cycle	Completed
2025-02-11	Review Snow Removal Policy prior to next winter plowing season with input from Accessibility and Active Transportation.	Not Started
2025-02-11	Upload First Reading MPS Review documents to Council in SharePoint.	Completed
2025-02-11	Prepare a thank you letter to our previous Auditors.	In-Progress
2025-02-11	Bring back Order on Property 109 Marster Avenue in a timeline manner that allows staff to fully assess the issues and allow the property owner to meet the order	In-Progress
2025-02-11	Prepare a letter to the province re Highway 101 sign, what happened and request assistance.	In-Progress
2025-02-11	Write a letter and complete cheque req. for \$200 to skating request	Completed



ACCESSIBILITY PLAN **2025-2028**

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WELCOME MESSAGE

In 2022, the Town of Berwick approved its Accessibility Plan, taking a significant step in recognizing the diverse needs of the community. The 2022-2025 Accessibility Plan is a key Town document, and this revision builds upon that work. The plan included in these pages expands on the Town's overall commitment to equity and reflects our broader vision of being a community where everyone feels welcome and included.

The development of this plan has been guided by the principles of the original Accessibility Plan, along with valuable input from the community. Through a community survey, and ongoing conversations, residents have shared their thoughts on existing barriers to accessibility, equity, and inclusion in Berwick. Listening to and responding to this feedback shows that a proactive and responsive approach is needed; one that not only addresses current challenges but also anticipates our future needs as Berwick continues to grow.

This is a living document, meaning it will change as our community does. As we move forward, we recognize that building a truly inclusive town requires ongoing reflection, dialogue, and adaptation. The 2025-2028 Accessibility Plan serves as a framework that will continue to adapt based on community feedback, best practices, and new opportunities for inclusion.

The Town of Berwick is committed to this work and understands that inclusivity and equity are not goals to reach, but actions we must keep taking.

This plan was created collaboratively by staff and members of the Town of Berwick Accessibility Advisory Committee. Additionally, the feedback of 65 members of the community was invaluable in the creation of this plan. Thank you.

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INTRODUCTION

The Town of Berwick is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive community for everyone. This Accessibility Plan outlines the steps we are taking to make sure all people can fully participate in town activities, services, and spaces.

We aim to remove any barriers that might prevent people from enjoying everything our town has to offer. In this plan, you will find information on how we have improved accessibility in Berwick and the actions we will take to continue making progress.

We strive to create an inclusive environment where diversity is embraced, discrimination and hate are actively opposed, and every resident is treated with respect and has access to all opportunities and resources.

We value your feedback and encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas with us as we work together to create a more accessible town.

Thank you for being a part of this important effort!

DEFINITIONS

- **Accessibility:** Accessibility means ensuring everyone can fully participate in community life by removing barriers, allowing all individuals to engage in activities and access resources without difficulty.
- **Barrier:** A barrier is something that stops or makes it harder for people to do something or go somewhere. It can be a physical object, like a wall, or something like rules, attitudes, situations, or cost that make it difficult for people to access or use something.
- **Built Environment:** The built environment refers to all the man-made spaces and structures around us, like buildings, roads, parks, and bridges. It's everything people design and create to live, work, and move around in.
- **Diversity:** Diversity means having different kinds of people in a group, with differences like race, culture, background, beliefs, and abilities. It's about recognizing and respecting these differences and understanding that they make a community stronger and more vibrant.
- **Equity:** Equity means making sure everyone has what they need to be successful. It's about treating people fairly and giving extra help to those who need it, so that everyone has the same opportunities, regardless of their background or situation.
- **Fiscal Year:** A fiscal year is a 12-month period that businesses or governments use for budgeting, planning, and reporting their financial activities. It doesn't always match the calendar year (January to December) and can start and end at any time. The

Town of Berwick fiscal year is April-March.

- **Inclusion:** Inclusion means making sure everyone feels welcome and involved. It's about including people from all walks of life and treating them fairly, so everyone has the same opportunities to participate and belong.

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NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS: 2022-2025

In the first three years of the Accessibility Plan, we have made great progress and met important milestones. From improving accessibility in public spaces to enhancing communication and support for residents, these efforts are making a real difference in our community. We are proud of the work done by the municipality, with the guidance of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, to create a more equitable Town.

Built Environment

- High-visibility and reflective crosswalk markings, and four additional push-powered signal crosswalks have been added since 2022.
- Sidewalk snow removal is done promptly and thoroughly.
- Raised garden beds around Town allow most people to participate.
- Trails are wide and well-groomed.
- An additional connector path has been added, connecting the Harvest Moon trail system to Peter Connell Park/Brown Street.
- Carol's Place has accessible washrooms that are available in the spring, summer and early fall.
- A new accessible swing has been added to Spicer Park Playground.

Communication

- Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings are now recorded and posted to YouTube the day after meetings take place. The YouTube links to the videos will be accessible on the Town of Berwick website. The Closed caption feature will be added to the recordings.
- Some Town of Berwick staff members have received training for inclusive and plain language.
- The Town of Berwick now uses a mobile app "Voyent Alert" that community members can use to receive updates regarding power outages etc.

- The Town of Berwick now has an active Communications plan reviewed and approved by Council in 2024.

Employment

- Council members have received iPads for reading all council and committee materials, which allow them to control the font size, zoom into images as needed, and has the technology to read or hear text.
- Main office doors and front desk area will be upgraded in 2025 to improve the accessibility of the space for members of the public and possible future employees.
- The Town of Berwick offers virtual interview options for job candidates who cannot attend in person.

Goods and Services

- In addition to “Pay as you Can” introduced in 2021, the Town of Berwick has worked with Schools Plus starting in 2022 to identify families in need of Summer Programming and have offered reduced rates along with finding sponsorships to send more children to camp.
- In addition to the NS Weekly Walks groups already established in Berwick, a Sunday group named “Able Amblers” has been added. This group participates in shorter, slower paced walks than the other walk groups and is accepting of individual limitations.
- The Town of Berwick now has 16 Community Charging Stations for electric vehicles, to help make owning e-vehicles easier for all.
- The Town of Berwick Centennial Solar Garden officially opened in 2023, with the goal of making solar energy accessible for all.
- Memory Cafe
- The Berwick Memory Café, in partnership with the Evangeline Club began in December 2024, serving adults with memory challenges and their families.

GOALS FOR 2025-2028

For the 2025-2028 period, we will continue to build on the guiding principles established in 2022. Goals that were not fully achieved will remain a priority, while also focusing on expanding efforts to further enhance accessibility in Berwick.

Built Environment

- Improve existing infrastructure to improve accessibility.
 - Example: Tennis Court Entrance.
- Include the Accessibility Committee on plans for built environment projects to provide input from an accessibility lens.

Communication

Ensure municipal programs, services, and communications are accessible and inclusive, meeting the diverse needs of residents.

- Budget for and provide ASL interpreters at community events that include speeches.
- Inclusive Promotion of events, programs and town updates.

Employment

- Offer diversity and cultural training for all staff so they can provide inclusive services.
- Be accommodating and willing to eliminate barriers for any potential future employees.

Goods & Services

- Partner with community agencies to help develop and run inclusive programming.
- Review the inclusiveness of current town programs and address those barriers.

Community Engagement

- Create accessible and inclusive opportunities for the community to come together in meaningful and constructive ways.

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ACTION ITEMS (2025-2028)

The outlined action items are designed to advance the goals of the plan. These steps, broken down on a yearly basis, will drive progress while also guiding ongoing efforts to integrate accessibility and equity in all areas of the municipality.

Year 1: Foundation Building (2025-2026)

- **Policy Development:**

- Considering the revisions made to the Accessibility Plan, create guidelines for when and how the Town should consult the Accessibility Advisory Committee during decision-making processes
- Draft and adopt a plain language communication policy.
- Develop a zero-tolerance policy for hate and discrimination in municipal spaces and events.

- **Staff Training:**

- Provide foundational training on equity, diversity, and inclusion for municipal staff.
- Support local community organizations by sharing training opportunities, and assisting with external grant applications for funding, particularly for equity initiatives.

- **Community Listening:**

- Engage with residents who indicated interest in providing future input through focus groups or interviews by using a form to collect their contact information.
 - Collect feedback from these residents to guide the planning of a mid-year engagement session

Year 2: Pilot Programs and Awareness (2026-2027)

- **Inclusive Promotions:**

- Ensure promotional materials represent the community's diversity.
- Introduce translation options for key documents and online content to serve English as an Additional Language (EAL) speakers.

- **Community Events:**

- Collaborate with local community organizations to support their events and programs that highlight diversity and inclusion
- Expand the annual Christmas events to include educational and celebratory activities that reflect the community's diverse culture

- **Accessibility Enhancements:**

- Engage the Accessibility Advisory Committee to assess physical and digital town assets for accessibility improvements

Year 3: Expansion and Implementation (2027-2028)

- **Policy Updates:**

- Review and refine existing policies based on community feedback and best practices.
- Incorporate equity and anti-racism principles into hiring, procurement, and public service standards by creating guidelines in a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

- **Inclusion Audits:**

- Conduct audits of town facilities, programs, and services to identify gaps in equity and inclusion.

- **Youth and School Engagement:**

- Collaborate with Berwick and District School to support at least one workshop or event focused on accessibility and inclusion, gathering feedback from students and staff on how to improve these efforts in the community.
- Create a youth engagement program to involve young adults at the committee level, encouraging their participation in community decision-making and promoting inclusion in municipal projects.

Year 4: Comprehensive Plan Adoption (2028)

- **Plan Development:**

- Use findings from pilot programs and community engagement to create a comprehensive Equity Plan, with separate Accessibility and Anti-Racism chapters.

- **Sustainability Measures:**

- Establish benchmarks for evaluating progress and sustaining equity efforts beyond 2028.

- **Celebration and Commitment:**

- Host a community event to celebrate milestones and renew the Town's commitment to equity.

METRICS FOR SUCCESS

When measuring goals and outcomes, defined metrics for success will be used, but it is important to recognize that accomplishments may arise in other ways.

- At least one new, or revised, policy and two initiatives implemented annually
- Increased diversity in participation in municipal programs and events
- Increased community satisfaction with inclusivity and accessibility, measured through surveys.
- Staff receive training to apply an equity lens in their work, with improvements seen in how they use inclusive practices in their roles.
- The Accessibility Advisory Committee will develop an annual work plan that outlines goals and expected outcomes
 - At the end of each fiscal year, the Accessibility Advisory Committee will complete a publicly available report card. The report card will have each goal listed and give each grade, with reasoning included.

CONCLUSION

Nearly half of the 65 respondents to the community survey that helped guide this plan have experienced or witnessed discrimination, exclusion, or barriers in our community. The Town of Berwick is committed to listening to, and engaging with, the community to create change. The actions in this plan will help guide the Town in making decisions that reflect and include everyone. By ensuring our policies, practices, and initiatives are welcoming and inclusive, we aim to reduce barriers and build a stronger sense of belonging for all.

Berwick is the 'little town with a lot to offer,' and we will continue to adapt, change, and grow.

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ACCESSIBILITY PLAN 2025 -28

PRESENTATION: FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Background

2021-2024

Accessibility 2021

Under the Accessibility Act, municipalities must do the following:

- establish an Accessibility Advisory Committee
- develop an accessibility plan within one year

The act states that accessibility plans **must be updated every three years.**

Berwick's plan was approved by Council on **March 8, 2022**



Background

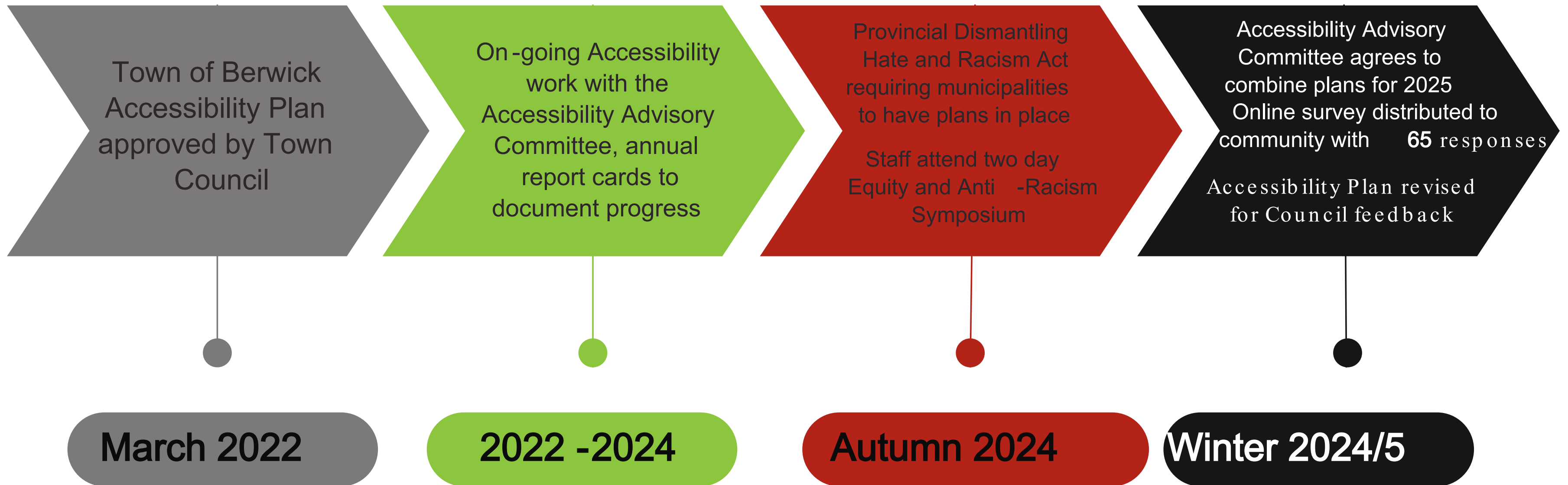
2021-2024

Anti -Racism and Hate, 2024

Municipalities and villages will be the first public sector bodies prescribed under the Dismantling Racism and Hate Act, requiring them to have plans to address systemic hate, inequity and racism by April 1, 2025 .



How did we get here?



Key Highlights

Achievements 2022 -2025

New push -powered signal crosswalks

Mobile app “Voyent Alert!” for updates
and communications from the Town

Front desk and counter at Town Hall
receiving Accessibility upgrades in 2025

“Pay What You Can” options
for Summer Day Camp

Key Highlights

Goals 2025 -2028

Built Environment:

- Improve existing infrastructure
- Include the Accessibility Advisory Committee on built environment projects

Communication:

- Budget for and provide ASL interpreters at community events
- Inclusive promotion and communication

Key Highlights

Goals 2025 -2028

Employment:

- Offer diversity and cultural training for all staff

Goods and Services:

- Partner with community agencies to help develop and run inclusive programming.

Community Engagement:

- Create opportunities for the community to come together in meaningful and constructive ways

Key Highlights

Action Items

Year One (2025 -2026): Foundation Building

- Policy Development
- Staff Training
- Community Listening

Year Two (2026 -2027): Pilot Programs and Awareness

- Inclusive Promotions
- Community Events
- Accessibility Enhancements

Key Highlights

Action Items

Years Three (2027 -2028): Expansion and Implementation

- Policy Updates
- Inclusion Audits
- Youth and School Engagement

Year Four (2028): Comprehensive Plan Adoption

- Plan Development
- Sustainability Measures
- Celebration and Commitment

Important Considerations

Plan has been shaped by community consultation and has been reviewed for feedback by AMANS

Plans *should* be in place by April 1st, 2025

By 2028, a comprehensive Equity plan is the goal for the Town of Berwick

This plan is a revision to the 2022 Accessibility Plan, that plan and associated documents continues to exist



THANK YOU

Town of Berwick
Report to Municipal Council
Agenda Item

Subject: Supplementary Report regarding Benjamin Grove
Development Agreement

From: Town Staff

Date: February 25, 2025

On February 13th, Council held a public hearing regarding the Benjamin Grove development agreement.

Council deferred second reading and asked staff for information regarding traffic calming measures for the private driveway and if the draft could be amended to respond to neighbour concerns regarding lighting and traffic calming.

In consultation with the municipal engineer, staff are recommending the following adjustments to the draft DA (see attached revised DA where any changes to the draft are shown in red)

- i. The Developer shall install a combination of rumble strips and speed bumps as traffic calming measures in 50m increments along the private driveway connecting the Development to Commercial Street. The design and layout shall be approved in advance by the Development Officer, with input from the Traffic Authority.
- ii. The Developer shall install decorative street lights in 25m increments along the private driveway connecting the Development to Commercial Street. The ratio between the spacing of the light posts and the height of the posts shall not exceed 5:1. The street lights shall incorporate a lighting distribution pattern that directs light downward onto the driveway while minimizing lighting behind the posts or beyond the driveway. A lighting plan shall be approved in advance by the Development Officer, with input from the Traffic Authority.

In addition to these changes, the Developer requested two other additional changes with staff that were discussed with Council during the public hearing. These changes are:

- Reduction to setback to 10 meters for buildings C and D. (see clause 3.3.4)
- Ability to not install landscaping, at the discretion of the development officer, if not safety or reasonable to do so given the narrow width of the driveway. (see clause 3.4.3)

Staff inserted the correct PID reference and deed description for the draft DA. Previously, an additional PID was included in previous versions but this property is not part of the proposed development.

The Developer agreed to all changes on February 20, 2025.

Recommendation

Staff are recommending that Council give final approval to the draft development agreement as attached.

Motion

Council approves the draft development for Benjamin Grove submitted by 3264285 Nova Scotia (Nick Bentley) to permit up to 120 apartment units in for buildings on PID 55240048.

INFORMATION REPORT

2025/26 Draft Operating & Capital Budgets V2



To: Town Council
From: Director of Finance
Date: February 25th, 2025
Subject: 2025/26 Draft Operating & Capital Budget V2

References/Attachments

- 2025/26 Draft Operating Budget V1 Package and Presentation
- 2025/26 Draft 5-Year Capital Budget V1 and Presentation
- 2025/26 Draft Operating Budget V2
- 2025/26 Draft 5-Year Capital Budget V2
- 2025/26 Draft Budget V2 Presentation

Legislation

- MGA Section 65

Background

OPERATING BUDGET

Version 2 of the draft 2025/26 operating budget is presented this evening for Council's consideration and discussion. At present, V2 of the draft 2025/26 operating budget has a shortfall of (\$146,547).

There is no change to the tax rate proposed within this draft of the operating budget. Staff recommend Council consider an increase to the tax rate. 1 cent on the tax rates equal \$24,190.

In accordance with the MGA, Berwick must present a balanced budget.

Council have provided staff with several follow-up items as we work collectively toward a balanced 2025/26 operating budget. Staff have reviewed these items and provide feedback to Council as summarized in the table to follow:

Item	Comments	Potential Budget Impact
Berwick Fitness Centre Increase Membership	A CPI increase was not applied to memberships in this version. If implemented, the following impact may be observed.	Approx. \$2,600

INFORMATION REPORT
2025/26 Draft Operating & Capital
Budgets V2



Item	Comments	Potential Budget Impact
Berwick Fitness Centre Closure	The Town has a 20-year agreement with the Berwick & District Community Association for space at the KMCC. The Town is responsible for the common costs associated with the space. Although the Town may sub-lease the space to another party, closing the centre would provide no savings in 2025/26. This decision would increase costs to the Town to wind down operations in 2025/26, as well as require significant staff time to complete.	Unknown increase to 2025/26 budget
Brush Pickup	The direct costs associated with brush pickup is the rental of the container at public works. Staff can look at narrowing the time the container is available or remove the service.	Up to (\$8,000)
Council Travel and Conferences	Staff would require further direction to calculate any savings which would be minimal.	
Staff training and conferences	Professional development and conferences are a critical component to continuous improvement of staff. There are a number of staff which are required to complete continuous professional development to maintain certifications & designations.	(\$4,500)
Subcontract Services	There are currently no services identified to sell to other municipalities. This is an area that staff do assess if an opportunity presents itself; however, given our limited size and depth it is hard to find capacity to offer to other municipalities.	0

INFORMATION REPORT
2025/26 Draft Operating & Capital
Budgets V2



Item	Comments	Potential Budget Impact
No CPI on wages	<p>Council can only decide not to provide CPI for non-union employees. By contract, CUPE employees are required to receive CPI. This decision would create inequality between the two groups, which management is always trying to balance when items are identified.</p> <p>CPI on one year may help balance a budget; however, it can quickly become an annual decision that puts staff further behind market value, leads to turnover and poor morale. The results have additional financial and productivity impacts on an organization. Furthermore, the Intermunicipal Service Agreement organizations that the Town of Berwick supports have all budgeted, and received Board approval, to provide at least CPI for their staff, which is calculated at a higher rate than the Town due to the time span that is used.</p>	(\$25,239)
No CPI on Council honorariums	The CPI calculated is based on the adjusted increase per policy.	(\$2,465)
IMSA Contract Reviews (KTA, VWRM, VCFN, VREN, REMO, AREA)	<p>No changes can be made to our IMSA organizations that would provide budget savings to 2025/26. All of our IMSA have termination clauses that could not be enacted for the 2025/26 fiscal year. The CAO remains engaged with the CAOs of our partner IMSA organizations and the General Managers/CEO's, as well as our senior finance staff to run these organizations as effectively as possible. The service provided by these organizations could not be provided at the same level more efficiently.</p>	0

INFORMATION REPORT
2025/26 Draft Operating & Capital
Budgets V2



Item	Comments	Potential Budget Impact
AREA pay travel expenses for board and staff	Although this may be an option, typically IMSA organizations do not cover expenses of partner board members and staff, unless they are doing business on behalf of the IMSA organization.	0
AREA to pay admin fee for CAO & DOF	As previously communicated, until 2024/25, AREA paid an admin fee to the Town's to represent the time commitment of the CAO's involvement in AREA operations. With the 2025/26 budget discussions upcoming, this is an area that can be explored, including the addition of the commitment of the Director of Public Works.	(\$20,000) to (\$30,000)
AREA Dividend	AREA's 2024/25 budget identified a dividend of \$253,406. Berwick's share would be 27% or \$68,419. However, the financial report as of December 2024 showed a budget to actual deficit of \$100,000. Staff feel there is uncertainty of a dividend at this time. Council should consider any dividend be directed in full or in part to operating reserves.	Could budget a one cent use of AREA dividend and if a higher dividend is declared it could be transferred to operating reserves. (\$24,190)
BEC Dividend	BEC is not in a position to provide a dividend for 2025/26.	0
Sale of property	At present, the only property identified for sale is 228 Main Street. Staff recommend completing the Stormwater Management Plan to understand whether the property or a portion of it could be required for stormwater management prior to making any decisions on selling the property.	0
CPI increase to rental and fees	A CPI increase was not applied in this version. If implemented, the following impact may be observed.	Less than \$350

INFORMATION REPORT
2025/26 Draft Operating & Capital
Budgets V2



A summary of changes from the V1 draft budget to V2 draft budget are presented in the table on the following page:

Draft Operating Budget Changes 2025-26		Shortfall	
Budget Item	Amount	(180,749)	V1
REVENUE			
Municipality of Kings Operating Grant Fire Department	28,312	(152,437)	
Interest on Taxes	16,000	(136,437)	
Interest on AR/PACE	(8,300)	(144,737)	
Fitness Centre Memberships	(5,000)	(149,737)	
Local Grants VIC	2,000	(147,737)	
Local Grants Rec Admin- MOK Crossing Guard Grant	12,000	(135,737)	
Safe Restart- Brightly Work Order Software	6,742	(128,995)	
EXPENSES			
Grants to Organizations	(1,000)	(127,995)	
Admin salary corrections- links verified; confirmed CPP, EI & WCB & CPI	(20,913)	(107,082)	
Administration professional development	(4,500)	(102,582)	
Office Supplies	(1,500)	(101,082)	
Tax Exemptions	(3,642)	(97,440)	
Audit Fees	(14,074)	(83,366)	
Education estimate	846	(84,212)	
Fire Services maintenance & supplies	16,031	(100,243)	
Public Works repairs and maintenance	(3,000)	(97,243)	
Public Works salaries- CPI of 2.3% added	19,718	(116,961)	
Paving- added sidewalks patching	21,000	(137,961)	
Traffic Services	(2,400)	(135,561)	
Kings Transit	4,000	(139,561)	
Valley Waste Resource Management	(1,014)	(138,547)	
MPS Review- additional costs	13,000	(151,547)	
Parks & Maintenance	(5,000)	(146,547)	V2

CAPITAL BUDGET

Staff have adjusted draft V2 of the 2025/26 Five-Year Capital Investment Plan, to reflect only one street refurbishment within the plan. The Foster Street project has been broken down into four phases, with the first proposed to begin in year 3 of the plan, 2027/28. As a transportation study is proposed in year one, the results of this study, in addition to the results of the stormwater management study, will be used to inform the design review of Foster Street in year 2 of the capital investment plan. By utilizing current professional

INFORMATION REPORT

2025/26 Draft Operating & Capital Budgets V2



information to update the design, this will ensure the Town is completing the street properly, with a future state lens, and ensuring the most fiscally responsible project for longevity of the town.

The debt scenarios and reserve scenarios have been updated and included within the draft V2 presentation.

As directed by Council, staff have moved the highway sign replacement to year two of the plan.

Staff welcome Council's inquiries and direction as we prepare for v3 of the 2025/26 draft operating budget.

Financial Implications

N/A

Priority Alignment

Check Applicable	Strategic Priority Area	Comments
X	Economic	
X	Environmental	
X	Social	
X	Cultural	

Community Engagement/Communication

A public budget engagement session is scheduled for February 27, 2025.

A budget survey will be circulated for two weeks, and a summary of the feedback will be shared at a future Council meeting.

All budget information is posted on Berwick's website at: Berwick.ca/2025-26budget.

CAO Initials: JB

**OPERATING SUMMARY****Revenue**

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
Taxes & Grants in Lieu of Taxes	4,567,267	4,365,936	4.61%	201,331	4,316,281
Sewer Revenues	851,084	553,768	53.69%	297,316	411,342
Sale of Services	1,062,538	585,032	81.62%	477,506	602,179
Other Revenue	256,497	283,392	(9.49%)	(26,895)	215,622
Federal, Provincial & Other Grants	379,451	388,493	(2.33%)	(9,042)	342,344
Other Transfers	6,742	271,338	(97.52%)	(264,596)	54,026
Total Revenue	7,123,579	6,447,959	10.48%	675,620	5,941,794

Expenses

General Government	2,133,437	2,230,103	(4.33%)	(96,666)	1,549,553
Protective Services	1,315,494	1,256,942	4.66%	58,552	859,740
Public Works	1,301,504	1,305,773	(0.33%)	(4,269)	989,763
Planning & Development	181,386	150,664	20.39%	30,722	159,269
Community Development	681,382	698,942	(2.51%)	(17,560)	607,550
Solar Garden	534,251	32,488	1544.46%	501,763	39,481
Sewer/Environmental Health	1,122,672	773,047	45.23%	349,625	659,901
Total Expenses	7,270,126	6,447,959	12.75%	822,167	4,865,257

Net Surplus (Deficit)	(146,547)	0	#DIV/0!	(146,547)	1,076,537
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	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES					
Revenue					
Total Revenue					
Expenses					
<u>Mayor Trinacty</u>					
Honorarium	26,859	0	0.00%	26,859	131
Travel	2,000	0	0.00%	2,000	327
Training & Conferences	1,400	0	0.00%	1,400	0
Meals	300	0	0.00%	300	160
Communications	262	650	(59.66%)	(388)	385
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>30,821</u>	<u>650</u>	<u>4641.66%</u>	<u>30,171</u>	<u>1,004</u>
<u>Mayor Clarke</u>					
Honorarium	0	23,758	(100.00%)	(23,758)	12,301
Travel	0	1,500	(100.00%)	(1,500)	2,078
Training & Conferences	0	750	(100.00%)	(750)	553
Meals	0	250	(100.00%)	(250)	203
Communications					
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>26,258</u>	<u>(100.00%)</u>	<u>(26,258)</u>	<u>15,134</u>
<u>Councillor Kwakernaak</u>					
Honorarium	13,429	0	0.00%	13,429	0
Travel	750	0	0.00%	750	254
Training & Conferences	800	0	0.00%	800	0
Meals	100	0	0.00%	100	63
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>15,079</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00%</u>	<u>15,079</u>	<u>317</u>
<u>Councillor Serino</u>					
Honorarium	13,429	0	0.00%	13,429	0
Travel	750	0	0.00%	750	129
Training & Conferences	800	0	0.00%	800	0
Meals	100	0	0.00%	100	22
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>15,079</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00%</u>	<u>15,079</u>	<u>152</u>
<u>Councillor Trinacity</u>					
Honorarium	0	12,206	(100.00%)	(12,206)	6,320
Travel	0	750	(100.00%)	(750)	724
Training & Conferences	0	750	(100.00%)	(750)	553
Meals	0	150	(100.00%)	(150)	155
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13,856</u>	<u>(100.00%)</u>	<u>(13,856)</u>	<u>7,752</u>
<u>Councillor Reeves</u>					
Honorarium	0	11,105	(100.00%)	(11,105)	5,750
Travel	0	300	(100.00%)	(300)	0
Training & Conferences	0	300	(100.00%)	(300)	0
Meals	0	100	(100.00%)	(100)	0
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11,805</u>	<u>(100.00%)</u>	<u>(11,805)</u>	<u>5,750</u>
<u>Councillor Walsh</u>					
Honorarium	13,429	11,105	20.93%	2,324	5,750
Travel	750	300	150.00%	450	141
Training & Conferences	800	300	166.67%	500	0
Meals	100	100	0.00%	0	42

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
Honorarium	13,429	11,105	20.93%	2,324	5,750
Travel	750	300	150.00%	450	0
Training & Conferences	800	300	166.67%	500	0
Meals	100	100	0.00%	0	42
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>15,079</u>	<u>11,805</u>	<u>27.73%</u>	<u>3,274</u>	<u>5,791</u>
<u>Councillor Jamieson</u>					
Honorarium	13,429	11,105	20.93%	2,324	5,750
Travel	750	300	150.00%	450	303
Training & Conferences	800	300	166.67%	500	0
Meals	100	100	0.00%	0	68
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>15,079</u>	<u>11,805</u>	<u>27.73%</u>	<u>3,274</u>	<u>6,121</u>
<u>Councillor Lutz</u>					
Honorarium	14,772	11,105	33.02%	3,667	5,750
Travel	750	300	150.00%	450	132
Training & Conferences	800	300	166.67%	500	0
Meals	100	100	0.00%	0	41
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>16,422</u>	<u>11,805</u>	<u>39.11%</u>	<u>4,617</u>	<u>5,923</u>
<u>General Expenses</u>					
CPP Expense	3,242	2,328	39.26%	914	954
Membership Fees & Dues	3,000	3,000	0.00%	0	789
Advertising	1,000	1,500	(33.33%)	(500)	475
Meeting Expenses	500	500	0.00%	0	296
Special Events	10,200	9,248	10.29%	952	6,170
Grants to Organizations	10,350	16,350	(36.70%)	(6,000)	13,382
Grant-Berwick & Dist. Comm. Assoc.	10,000	10,000	0.00%	0	0
Grant-Valley Wildcats	10,000	10,000	0.00%	0	10,000
Elections	0	15,000	(100.00%)	(15,000)	12,197
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>48,292</u>	<u>67,926</u>	<u>(28.90%)</u>	<u>(19,634)</u>	<u>44,262</u>
Total Expenses	170,932	167,716	1.92%	3,215	98,138
Net Department Surplus (Deficit)	(170,932)	(167,716)	1.92%	(3,215)	(98,138)

V2 DRAFT OPERATING BUDGET 2025-26

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
ADMINISTRATION					
Revenue					
Administration fees- Berwick Electric	241,019	252,258	(4.46%)	(11,239)	147,151
Administration fees- Sewer	41,662	34,941	19.24%	6,721	0
Tax Certificates	2,500	2,500	0.00%	0	1,998
Miscellaneous Revenue	300	20,501	(98.54%)	(20,201)	25,423
Grants	0	0	0.00%	0	0
Total Revenue	285,481	310,200	(7.97%)	(24,720)	174,571
Expenses					
<u>CAO Office</u>					
Wages	135,266	134,676	0.44%	590	72,518
CPP	4,430	4,008	10.53%	422	1,794
EI	1,508	1,469	2.70%	40	572
WCB	2,281	1,669	36.69%	612	909
Group Medical & Life	2,810	3,011	(6.67%)	(201)	2,424
Pension	11,162	19,174	(41.79%)	(8,012)	7,032
Workplace Wellness Benefit	4,000	4,000	0.00%	0	1,140
<u>Total Salaries & Benefits</u>	<u>161,458</u>	<u>168,007</u>	<u>(3.90%)</u>	<u>(6,550)</u>	<u>86,388</u>
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Travel	2,750	3,550	(22.54%)	(800)	920
Training & Conferences	1,800	1,500	20.00%	300	670
Membership Fees & Dues	670	350	91.43%	320	344
Meals	100	100	0.00%	0	272
Communications	600	600	0.00%	0	820
Advertising	500	500	0.00%	0	469
Meetings	2,000	300	566.67%	1,700	331
Subscriptions & Donations	500	500	0.00%	0	100
<u>Total General Expenses</u>	<u>8,920</u>	<u>7,400</u>	<u>20.54%</u>	<u>1,520</u>	<u>3,927</u>
<u>Administration</u>					
Wages	373,862	427,978	(12.64%)	(54,115)	224,716
CPP	18,578	18,934	(1.88%)	(356)	11,196
EI	7,088	7,455	(4.92%)	(366)	4,344
WCB	9,865	9,027	9.28%	838	5,469
Group Medical & Life	14,909	22,938	(35.00%)	(8,029)	16,066
Pension	31,021	32,877	(5.65%)	(1,856)	18,640
<u>Total Salaries & Benefits</u>	<u>455,324</u>	<u>519,209</u>	<u>(12.30%)</u>	<u>(63,885)</u>	<u>280,431</u>
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Travel	3,000	2,850	5.26%	150	639
Training & Conferences	8,230	4,720	74.36%	3,510	3,108
Meals	780	480	62.50%	300	115
Membership Fees & Dues	1,550	2,030	(23.65%)	(480)	1,543
Office Supplies	7,212	8,712	(17.22%)	(1,500)	11,304
Postage, Courier, & Equipment Rental	16,857	22,100	(23.72%)	(5,243)	14,945
Communications	2,160	540	300.00%	1,620	1,699
<u>Total General Expenses</u>	<u>39,789</u>	<u>41,432</u>	<u>(3.96%)</u>	<u>(1,643)</u>	<u>33,353</u>
<u>Information Technology</u>					
Contracted Services	7,020	11,700	(40.00%)	(4,680)	30,928
Hardware	14,895	17,739	(16.03%)	(2,844)	11,786
Software	56,724	55,761	1.73%	963	14,440
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>78,639</u>	<u>85,200</u>	<u>(7.70%)</u>	<u>(6,561)</u>	<u>57,155</u>
Total Expenses	744,130	821,248	(9.39%)	(77,118)	461,253
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(458,649)	(511,048)	(10.25%)	52,399	(286,682)

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
OTHER GOVERNMENT					
Revenue					
Taxation-Residential	3,288,312	3,061,282	7.42%	227,030	3,063,295
Taxation-Commercial	1,125,494	1,151,275	(2.24%)	(25,781)	1,021,072
Taxation-Resource	19,467	19,533	(0.34%)	(65)	19,531
Deed Transfer Tax	100,000	100,000	0.00%	0	171,220
Bell Aliant- GIL	12,000	12,000	0.00%	0	10,273
Canada Post- GIL	6,993	6,846	2.14%	147	0
Return on Investments	12,000	12,000	0.00%	0	0
Interest on Taxes	30,000	14,000	114.29%	16,000	40,130
Interest on PACE Program	1,700	10,000	(83.00%)	(8,300)	5,105
HST Offset	15,000	15,000	0.00%	0	30,890
Financial Capacity Grant (Equalization)	254,937	254,937	0.00%	0	263,207
Farm Acreage Grant	1,518	1,460	3.97%	58	1,518
AREA Dividend	0	0	0.00%	0	0
Operating Reserve Transfer	0	234,599	(100.00%)	(234,599)	0
Safe Restart	6,742	36,739	(81.65%)	(29,997)	64,917
Total Revenue	4,874,164	4,929,671	(1.13%)	(55,507)	4,691,158
Expenses					
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Bank Charges	14,000	14,000	0.00%	0	7,128
Audit Fees	30,926	25,000	23.70%	5,926	37,876
Legal Fees	5,000	5,000	0.00%	0	12,915
General Liability Insurance	29,826	25,276	18.00%	4,550	25,886
Tax Exemptions	146,002	149,644	(2.43%)	(3,642)	145,402
Tax Sales	1,000	1,000	0.00%	0	0
Bad Debt Expense	7,700	7,700	0.00%	0	1,458
Other Debt Charges	0	0	0.00%	0	0
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>234,453</u>	<u>227,619</u>	<u>3.00%</u>	<u>6,834</u>	<u>230,665</u>
<u>Long Term Debt</u>					
Debenture Principal	9,033	9,033	0.00%	0	0
Debenture Interest	723	1,076	(32.84%)	(353)	538
<u>Total Debenture Expense</u>	<u>9,756</u>	<u>10,109</u>	<u>(3.49%)</u>	<u>(353)</u>	<u>538</u>
<u>Partner Contributions</u>					
Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education	687,440	641,677	7.13%	45,763	582,835
Property Valuation Services Corp	34,625	32,360	7.00%	2,265	32,360
<u>Total Partner Contributions</u>	<u>722,065</u>	<u>674,037</u>	<u>7.13%</u>	<u>48,028</u>	<u>615,195</u>
<u>AREA Deficit</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>63,000</u>	<u>(100.00%)</u>	<u>(63,000)</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expenses	966,274	974,765	(0.87%)	(8,491)	846,398
Net Surplus (Deficit)	3,907,890	3,954,906	(1.19%)	(47,016)	3,844,760

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
TOWN HALL					
Revenue					
AVRL Rent	61,337	60,430	1.50%	906	37,517
Kings County Library Contribution	15,620	15,620	0.00%	0	15,620
Total Revenue	76,957	76,050	1.19%	906	53,137
Expenses					
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Communications	3,315	3,000	10.50%	315	3,582
Facility Insurance	9,897	3,766	162.81%	6,131	9,080
Utilities	42,189	41,080	2.70%	1,109	56,881
Repairs & Maintenance	25,542	44,536	(42.65%)	(18,994)	48,464
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>80,943</u>	<u>92,382</u>	<u>(12.38%)</u>	<u>(11,439)</u>	<u>118,008</u>
<u>Long Term Debt</u>					
Debenture Principal	125,133	125,133	0.00%	0	0
Debenture Interest	46,025	48,858	(5.80%)	(2,833)	25,115
<u>Total Debenture Expense</u>	<u>171,158</u>	<u>173,991</u>	<u>(1.63%)</u>	<u>(2,833)</u>	<u>25,115</u>
Total Expenses	252,101	266,373	(5.36%)	(14,272)	143,123
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(175,144)	(190,323)	(7.98%)	15,178	(89,986)

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
POLICE SERVICES					
Revenue					
Policing Fines	500	500	0.00%	0	360
Total Revenue	500	500	0.00%	0	360
Expenses					
RCMP/DNA Contracted Services	911,260	858,369	6.16%	52,891	643,486
Total Expenses	911,260	858,369	6.16%	52,891	643,486
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(910,760)	(857,869)	6.17%	(52,891)	(643,125)

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
FIRE SERVICES					
Grants					
NS-Civic Addressing Grant	1,000	1,000	0.00%	0	0
Municipality of Kings Operating Grant	193,357	165,045	17.15%	28,312	0
Total Grant Revenue	194,357	166,045	17.05%	28,312	0
Expenses					
<u>Fire Administration</u>					
WCB	2,500	2,500	0.00%	0	2,265
EAP/Life Insurance	5,524	5,312	3.99%	212	498
Honorarium	12,000	12,000	0.00%	0	11,970
Meetings, Meals, & Travel	3,700	3,700	0.00%	0	2,975
Training & Conferences	8,070	7,070	14.14%	1,000	5,488
Membership Dues & Fees	1,000	1,000	0.00%	0	1,131
Office Supplies	3,600	3,600	0.00%	0	838
Communication	7,160	7,160	0.00%	0	7,000
<u>Total Administration Expenses</u>	<u>43,554</u>	<u>42,342</u>	<u>2.86%</u>	<u>1,212</u>	<u>32,165</u>
<u>Fire Hall</u>					
Facility Insurance	13,827	12,685	9.00%	1,141	9,276
Utilities	43,944	42,789	2.70%	1,155	42,678
Repairs & Maintenance	47,825	33,950	40.87%	13,875	29,260
<u>Total Fire Hall Expenses</u>	<u>105,596</u>	<u>89,424</u>	<u>18.08%</u>	<u>16,172</u>	<u>81,214</u>
<u>Fire Operations</u>					
Communications	25,500	25,500	0.00%	0	18,044
Tools & Equipment	21,831	18,300	19.30%	3,531	10,182
Clothing & Safety Equipment	35,360	35,360	0.00%	0	16,563
Vehicle Insurance	19,179	17,595	9.00%	1,584	18,762
Vehicle Fuel	14,000	14,000	0.00%	0	3,365
Vehicle Maintenance	30,650	30,650	0.00%	0	25,866
<u>Total Fire Operations Expenses</u>	<u>146,520</u>	<u>141,405</u>	<u>3.62%</u>	<u>5,115</u>	<u>92,783</u>
<u>Long Term Debt</u>					
Debenture Principal	71,917	71,917	0.00%	0	0
Debenture Interest	19,516	37,200	(47.54%)	(17,684)	1,484
<u>Total Debenture Expenses</u>	<u>91,433</u>	<u>109,117</u>	<u>(16.21%)</u>	<u>(17,684)</u>	<u>1,484</u>
Total Expenses	387,103	382,289	1.26%	4,815	207,646
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(192,747)	(216,244)	(10.87%)	23,497	(207,646)

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
BYLAW SERVICES					
Revenue					
Total Revenue					
Expenses					
<u>Salaries & Wages</u>					
Wages	6,129	5,916	3.60%	213	98
CPP	369	401	(7.98%)	(32)	6
EI	151	147	2.70%	4	2
WCB	183	160	14.30%	23	3
Group Medical & Life	439	699	(37.31%)	(261)	8
Pension	490	473	3.60%	17	8
<u>Total Salaries & Wages</u>	<u>7,760</u>	<u>7,796</u>	<u>(0.46%)</u>	<u>(36)</u>	<u>124</u>
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Travel	100	100	0.00%	0	0
<u>Total General Expenses</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>0.00%</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Partner Contributions</u>					
Kings' REMO	9,270	8,388	10.51%	882	8,485
<u>Total Partner Contributions</u>	<u>9,270</u>	<u>8,388</u>	<u>10.51%</u>	<u>882</u>	<u>8,485</u>
Total Expenses	17,130	16,285	5.19%	846	8,609
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(17,130)	(16,285)	5.19%	(846)	(8,609)

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
SOLAR GARDEN					
Revenue					
Solar Garden Revenue	534,251	37,488	1325.12%	496,763	422,830
Total Revenue	534,251	37,488	1325.12%	496,763	422,830
Expenses					
<u>Salaries & Benefits</u>					
Regular Salaries	20,866	0	0.00%	20,866	115
<u>Total Salaries & Benefits</u>	<u>20,866</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00%</u>	<u>20,866</u>	<u>115</u>
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Travel	0	0	0.00%	0	46
Meals	0	0	0.00%	0	0
Training & Conference	1,000	0	0.00%	1,000	0
Membership Fees & Dues	0	0	0.00%	0	0
Communications	0	0	0.00%	0	0
Insurance	34,762	32,488	7.00%	2,274	3,482
Administration Fees	4,622	0	0.00%	4,622	5,828
Other Professional Fees	0	0	0.00%	0	7,709
Repairs & Maintenance	74,650	0	0.00%	74,650	14,025
Tools & Equipment	2,000	0	0.00%	2,000	3,177
Safety Supplies	1,000	0	0.00%	1,000	0
Utilities	0	0	0.00%	0	5,070
<u>Total General Expenses</u>	<u>118,033</u>	<u>32,488</u>	<u>263.31%</u>	<u>85,545</u>	<u>39,339</u>
<u>Long Term Debt</u>					
Debenture Principal	172,333	0	0.00%	172,333	0
Debenture Interest	223,018	0	0.00%	223,018	0
<u>Total Debenture Expenses</u>	<u>395,351</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00%</u>	<u>395,351</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expenses	534,251	32,488	1544.46%	501,763	39,454
Net Surplus (Deficit)	0	5,000	(100.01%)	(5,000)	383,377

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT					
Revenue					
Planning	10,000	10,000	0.00%	0	8,040
Total Revenue	10,000	10,000	0.00%	0	8,040
Expenses					
<u>Salaries & Benefits</u>					
Regular Wages	34,320	35,299	(2.77%)	(979)	18,698
CPP	1,834	2,136	(14.15%)	(302)	1,039
EI	845	867	(2.60%)	(23)	435
WCB	1,026	957	7.27%	70	511
Group Medical & Life	2,815	2,339	20.37%	476	1,292
Pension	2,746	2,366	16.03%	379	1,349
<u>Total Salaries & Benefits</u>	<u>43,586</u>	<u>43,964</u>	<u>(0.86%)</u>	<u>(378)</u>	<u>23,322</u>
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Travel	100	500	(80.00%)	(400)	445
Office Supplies	1,000	1,000	0.00%	0	97
Communication	600	600	0.00%	0	0
Advertising	3,000	3,000	0.00%	0	1,693
Postage & Courier	100	100	0.00%	0	40
Legal	10,000	10,000	0.00%	0	20,129
Other Professional Fees	123,000	91,500	34.43%	31,500	113,542
<u>Total General Expenses</u>	<u>137,800</u>	<u>106,700</u>	<u>29.15%</u>	<u>31,100</u>	<u>135,947</u>
Total Expenses	181,386	150,664	20.39%	30,722	159,269
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(171,386)	(140,664)	21.84%	(30,722)	(151,230)

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
PUBLIC WORKS					
Total Revenue					
Expenses					
<u>Public Works Administration</u>					
<u>Salaries & Benefits</u>					
Regular Salaries	109,223	145,736	(25.05%)	(36,513)	29,016
CPP	4,094	6,012	(31.90%)	(1,918)	13,061
EI	1,572	2,336	(32.72%)	(764)	5,231
WCB	2,313	2,659	(12.99%)	(345)	6,328
Group & Medical	3,683	4,445	(17.13%)	(761)	9,821
Pension	8,239	11,201	(26.45%)	(2,963)	17,627
Total Salaries & Benefits	129,124	172,388	(25.10%)	(43,264)	81,084
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Travel	3,250	1,183	174.73%	2,067	2,133
Meals	700	500	40.00%	200	566
Training & Conference	5,675	8,965	(36.70%)	(3,290)	2,815
Membership Fees & Dues	1,175	500	135.00%	675	323
Communications	8,850	10,240	(13.58%)	(1,390)	4,314
Advertising	500	500	0.00%	0	0
Engineering/Surveyor Services	2,220	2,220	0.00%	0	0
Total General Expenses	22,370	24,108	(7.21%)	(1,738)	10,151
Total Public Works Administration Expenses	151,494	196,496	(22.90%)	(45,003)	91,235
<u>Public Works Facility</u>					
Insurance	13,327	12,227	9.00%	1,101	7,417
Utilities	15,821	15,405	2.70%	416	12,413
Repairs & Maintenance	19,350	8,480	128.18%	10,870	45,171
Total Public Works Facility	48,498	36,112	34.30%	12,387	65,000
<u>Streets & Roads</u>					
<u>Salary & Wages</u>					
Regular Salaries	310,176	325,476	(4.70%)	(15,299)	203,073
CPP	17,093	18,023	(5.16%)	(930)	0
EI	7,175	7,353	(2.41%)	(178)	0
WCB	7,797	8,558	(8.89%)	(761)	0
Group & Medical	14,717	21,514	(31.59%)	(6,796)	0
Pension	18,879	25,275	(25.31%)	(6,396)	9,828
Total Salaries & Benefits	375,837	406,197	(7.47%)	(30,360)	212,901
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Insurance- Public Works Accidents	0	0	0.00%	0	2,816
Paving	225,000	200,000	12.50%	25,000	193,065
Tools & Equipment	13,000	5,000	160.00%	8,000	23,997
Repairs & Maintenance	0	0	0.00%	0	9,581
Equipment Rental	12,000	12,000	0.00%	0	4,858
Operational Supplies	37,800	23,000	64.35%	14,800	16,668
Winter Supplies	50,715	40,000	26.79%	10,715	43,987
Safety Supplies	7,620	5,250	45.14%	2,370	6,195
Total General Expenses	346,135	285,250	21.34%	60,885	301,166
<u>Fleet Expenses</u>					
Vehicle Insurance	14,692	13,479	9.00%	1,213	12,682
Fuel	20,600	20,600	0.00%	0	26,311
Vehicles Maintenance	42,395	40,695	4.18%	1,700	68,581
Total Fleet Expenses	77,687	74,774	3.90%	2,913	107,574
Total Streets & Roads Expenses	799,659	766,221	4.36%	33,438	621,641
<u>Street Lighting</u>					
Power	67,685	65,906	2.70%	1,779	69,563
Repairs & Maintenance	1,605	1,605	0.00%	0	168
Total Street Lighting	69,290	67,511	2.64%	1,779	69,732

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
<u>Crossing Guards</u>					
<u>Salaries & Wages</u>					
Hourly Wages	22,102	21,916	0.85%	186	8,232
CPP	899	888	1.25%	11	330
EI	507	509	(0.37%)	(2)	191
WCB	661	594	11.27%	67	223
Total Salaries & Benefits	24,169	23,907	1.10%	262	8,976
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Communication	150	150	0.00%	0	518
Safety Supplies	500	500	0.00%	0	145
Total General Expenses	650	650	0.00%	0	663
Total Crossing Guards Expenses	24,819	24,557	1.07%	262	9,639
<u>Storm Sewer</u>					
Repairs & Maintenance	16,000	16,000	0.00%	0	2,702
Total Storm Sewer	16,000	16,000	0.00%	0	2,702
<u>Long Term Debt</u>					
Debenture Principal	42,452	42,452	0.00%	0	0
Debenture Interest	15,599	17,415	(10.43%)	(1,816)	8,731
Total Debenture Expenses	58,051	59,867	(3.03%)	(1,816)	8,731
<u>Partner Contributions</u>					
Kings Transit Authority	102,142	103,437	(1.25%)	(1,295)	95,556
Kings Point to Point Transit	5,000	9,872	(49.35%)	(4,872)	9,872
Total Partner Contributions	107,142	113,309	(5.44%)	(6,167)	105,428
Total Expenses	1,301,504	1,305,773	(0.33%)	(4,269)	989,763
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(1,301,504)	(1,305,773)	(0.33%)	4,269	(989,763)

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH					
Revenue					
<u>Operating Revenue</u>					
Sewer Residential	385,288	208,394	84.88%	176,894	205,936
Sewer Industrial	425,790	290,368	46.64%	135,422	197,121
Sewer Institutional	40,006	40,006	0.00%	0	8,284
Sewer Connection Fees	0	0	0.00%	0	0
<u>Total Operating Revenue</u>	<u>851,084</u>	<u>538,768</u>	<u>57.97%</u>	<u>312,316</u>	<u>411,342</u>
Total Revenue	851,084	538,768	57.97%	312,316	411,342
Expenses					
<u>Sewer Administration</u>					
<u>Salaries & Benefits</u>					
Wages	12,565	46,672	(73.08%)	(34,107)	9,052
CPP	487	2,004	(75.68%)	(1,517)	526
EI	166	734	(77.41%)	(568)	210
WCB	251	835	(69.93%)	(584)	248
Group Medical & Life	482	1,482	(67.44%)	(999)	1,202
Pension	1,005	3,734	(73.08%)	(2,729)	0
<u>Total Salaries & Benefits</u>	<u>14,957</u>	<u>55,460</u>	<u>(73.03%)</u>	<u>(40,503)</u>	<u>11,239</u>
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Travel	3,100	3,000	3.33%	100	2,356
Meals	400	0	0.00%	400	447
Training & Conferences	3,230	1,800	79.44%	1,430	156
Membership Fees & Dues	990	400	147.50%	590	164
Office Supplies	500	1,000	(50.00%)	(500)	398
Administration Fees	41,662	34,941	19.24%	6,721	0
Communications	1,924	2,524	(23.77%)	(600)	2,203
<u>Total General Expenses</u>	<u>51,806</u>	<u>43,665</u>	<u>18.64%</u>	<u>8,141</u>	<u>5,725</u>
<u>Contribution to Reserves</u>	<u>268,934</u>	<u>52,951</u>	<u>407.89%</u>	<u>215,983</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Sewer Administration Expenses	335,697	152,076	120.74%	183,621	16,964
<u>Sewer Collection</u>					
<u>Salaries & Benefits</u>					
Wages	42,281	7,611	455.50%	34,670	63
CPP	2,359	401	488.47%	1,958	4
EI	918	147	524.92%	771	1
WCB	1,270	167	660.93%	1,103	2
Group Medical & Life	2,629	484	442.89%	2,145	0
Pension	3,382	609	455.50%	2,774	248
<u>Total Salaries & Benefits</u>	<u>52,839</u>	<u>9,419</u>	<u>460.98%</u>	<u>43,420</u>	<u>317</u>
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Facility Insurance	427	392	8.89%	35	368
Utilities	31,852	31,015	2.70%	837	33,419
Repairs & Maintenance	67,500	43,400	55.53%	24,100	40,367
<u>Total General Expenses</u>	<u>99,780</u>	<u>74,808</u>	<u>33.38%</u>	<u>24,972</u>	<u>74,154</u>
Total Sewer Collection Expenses	152,619	84,227	81.20%	68,392	74,471
<u>Sewer Treatment</u>					
<u>Salaries & Benefits</u>					
Wages	72,820	60,890	19.59%	11,931	45,458
CPP	3,665	3,206	14.31%	459	2,632
EI	1,373	1,175	16.82%	198	1,064
WCB	2,067	1,335	54.78%	731	1,259

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
Facility Insurance	6,411	5,882	9.01%	530	6,940
Utilities	118,446	115,332	2.70%	3,114	135,069
Repairs & Maintenance	105,250	77,398	35.99%	27,852	94,298
Tools & Equipment	5,000	1,000	400.00%	4,000	5,289
Sewer Treatment Testing	30,000	20,000	50.00%	10,000	23,497
Clothing & Safety Equipment	800	800	0.00%	0	2,659
<u>Total General Expenses</u>	<u>265,907</u>	<u>220,412</u>	<u>20.64%</u>	<u>45,496</u>	<u>267,752</u>
Total Sewer Treatment Expenses	356,515	295,764	20.54%	60,751	326,227
<u>Long Term Debt</u>					
Debenture Principal	18,231	18,231	0.00%	0	0
Debenture Interest	3,022	3,470	(12.91%)	(448)	1,786
Total Long Term Debt	21,253	21,701	(2.06%)	(448)	1,786
Total Sewer Expenses	866,084	553,768	56.40%	312,316	419,448
Sewer Net Surplus (Deficit)	(15,000)	(15,000)	0.00%	0	(8,106)
<u>Partner Contributions</u>					
Other Solid Waste Charges	0	8,142	(100.00%)	(8,142)	42,227
Valley Waste Resource Management	256,588	211,137	21.53%	45,451	198,227
Total Partner Contributions	256,588	219,279	17.01%	37,309	240,454
Total Expenses	1,122,672	773,047	45.23%	349,625	659,901
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(271,588)	(234,279)	15.92%	(37,309)	(248,559)

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
Revenue					
Total Revenue					
Expenses					
<u>Salaries & Benefits</u>					
Wages	37,017	36,178	2.32%	839	71,377
CPP	1,614	1,502	7.45%	112	3,857
EI	603	588	2.70%	16	1,487
WCB	913	668	36.69%	245	1,890
Group Medical & Life	2,142	1,994	7.44%	148	4,508
Pension	2,961	2,894	2.32%	67	5,692
<u>Total Salaries & Benefits</u>	<u>45,250</u>	<u>43,823</u>	<u>3.26%</u>	<u>1,427</u>	<u>88,811</u>
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Travel	150	1,180	(87.29%)	(1,030)	819
Training & Conferences	300	300	0.00%	0	145
Membership Fees & Dues	350	350	0.00%	0	594
Communication	540	540	0.00%	0	1,787
Marketing Promo & Community Dev.	5,600	6,800	(17.65%)	(1,200)	3,010
<u>Total General Expenses</u>	<u>6,940</u>	<u>9,170</u>	<u>(24.32%)</u>	<u>(2,230)</u>	<u>6,356</u>
<u>Partner Contributions</u>					
Valley Regional Enterprise Network	14,100	14,100	0.00%	0	63,081
Valley Community Fibre Network	3,200	3,200	0.00%	0	0
Nova Scotia Housing Authority	0	0	0.00%	0	30,483
<u>Total Partner Contributions</u>	<u>17,300</u>	<u>17,300</u>	<u>0.00%</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>93,565</u>
Total Expenses	69,490	70,293	(1.14%)	(803)	188,731
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(69,490)	(70,293)	(1.14%)	803	(188,731)

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
REC ADMIN					
Revenue					
<u>Grants</u>					
Federal Government Grants	0	0	0.00%	0	0
Provincial Government Grants	25,000	37,500	(33.33%)	(12,500)	25,000
Local Government Grants	27,000	12,500	116.00%	14,500	0
<u>Total Grants</u>	<u>52,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>4.00%</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Total Revenue	52,000	50,000	4.00%	2,000	25,000
Expenses					
<u>Salaries & Benefits</u>					
Regular wages	152,239	120,899	25.92%	31,340	38,905
CPP	7,758	5,839	32.87%	1,920	2,159
EI	3,126	2,430	28.64%	696	908
WCB	4,261	2,807	51.78%	1,453	1,067
Group Medical & Life	12,996	10,792	20.42%	2,204	1,466
Pension	12,179	9,672	25.92%	2,507	2,300
<u>Total Salaries & Benefits</u>	<u>192,559</u>	<u>152,439</u>	<u>26.32%</u>	<u>40,120</u>	<u>46,805</u>
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Travel	3,100	3,650	(15.07%)	(550)	1,099
Training & Conferences	1,800	2,600	(30.77%)	(800)	454
Membership Fees & Dues	900	900	0.00%	0	1,372
Meals	150	150	0.00%	0	83
Meetings	0	100	(100.00%)	(100)	51
Communications	1,080	540	100.00%	540	1,426
<u>Total General Expenses</u>	<u>7,030</u>	<u>7,940</u>	<u>(11.46%)</u>	<u>(910)</u>	<u>4,485</u>
<u>Community Events & Festivals</u>					
General Events & Festivals	16,900	17,370	(2.71%)	(470)	16,244
<u>Total Community Events</u>	<u>16,900</u>	<u>17,370</u>	<u>(2.71%)</u>	<u>(470)</u>	<u>16,244</u>
Total Expenses	216,489	177,749	21.79%	38,740	67,534
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(164,489)	(127,749)	28.76%	(36,740)	(42,534)

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
REC PROGRAMMING					
Revenue					
Misc Recreation Program Revenue	2,000	2,000	0.00%	0	856
Summer Day Camp	26,250	30,000	(12.50%)	(3,750)	14,575
After School Program	0	61,500	(100.00%)	(61,500)	16,767
Pickleball	9,000	1,800	400.00%	7,200	0
<u>Total Revenue</u>	<u>37,250</u>	<u>95,300</u>	<u>(60.91%)</u>	<u>(58,050)</u>	<u>32,199</u>
<u>Grants</u>					
Federal Government Grants	14,400	16,000	(10.00%)	(1,600)	10,640
Provincial Government Grants	4,000	13,500	(70.37%)	(9,500)	0
Local Government Grants	11,000	11,000	0.00%	0	750
<u>Total Grants</u>	<u>29,400</u>	<u>40,500</u>	<u>(27.41%)</u>	<u>(11,100)</u>	<u>11,390</u>
Total Revenue	66,650	135,800	(50.92%)	(69,150)	43,589
Expenses					
<u>Salaries & Benefits</u>					
Regular Wages	0	30,865	(100.00%)	(30,865)	2,233
After School Program Wages	2,117	38,047	(94.44%)	(35,931)	39,838
Summer Camp Wages	33,347	39,509	(15.60%)	(6,162)	0
CPP	1,568	4,946	(68.31%)	(3,378)	1,650
EI	252	2,520	(90.00%)	(2,268)	978
WCB	1,060	2,938	(63.91%)	(1,878)	1,140
Group Medical & Life	0	2,761	(100.00%)	(2,761)	0
Pension	0	2,469	(100.00%)	(2,469)	0
<u>Total Salaries & Benefits</u>	<u>38,343</u>	<u>124,055</u>	<u>(69.09%)</u>	<u>(85,712)</u>	<u>45,839</u>
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Communication	540	1,080	(50.00%)	(540)	114
<u>Total General Expenses</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>1,080</u>	<u>(50.00%)</u>	<u>(540)</u>	<u>114</u>
<u>Program Expenditures</u>					
General Program Expenditures	4,550	2,750	65.45%	1,800	853
Summer Day Camp	1,800	1,800	0.00%	0	894
After School Program	0	1,500	(100.00%)	(1,500)	289
<u>Total Program Expenditures</u>	<u>6,350</u>	<u>6,050</u>	<u>4.96%</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>2,035</u>
Total Expenses	45,233	131,185	(65.52%)	(85,952)	47,988
Net Surplus (Deficit)	21,417	4,615	364.07%	16,802	(4,400)

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE					
Revenue					
Federal Government Grants	8,000	4,000	100.00%	4,000	9,585
Provincial Government Grants	0	4,000	(100.00%)	(4,000)	2,500
Local Government Grants	2,000	2,000	0.00%	0	0
Total Revenue	10,000	10,000	0.00%	0	12,085
Expenses					
<u>Salaries & Benefits</u>					
Hourly Wages	13,890	10,483	32.50%	3,407	11,842
CPP	410	416	(1.33%)	(6)	617
EI	319	244	30.90%	75	275
WCB	415	284	46.19%	131	321
<u>Total Salaries & Benefits</u>	<u>15,034</u>	<u>11,426</u>	<u>31.58%</u>	<u>3,608</u>	<u>13,055</u>
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Utilities	643	626	2.62%	16	1,033
<u>Total General Expenses</u>	<u>643</u>	<u>626</u>	<u>2.62%</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1,033</u>
Total Expenses	15,677	12,053	30.07%	3,624	14,088
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(5,677)	(2,053)	176.55%	(3,624)	(2,003)

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
FITNESS CENTRE					
Revenue					
Membership Sales	121,500	138,800	(12.46%)	(17,300)	80,421
Personal Training	2,000	6,000	(66.67%)	(4,000)	2,025
Common BDCA	4,000	4,000	0.00%	0	0
Total Revenue	127,500	148,800	(14.31%)	(21,300)	82,446
Expenses					
<u>Salaries & Benefits</u>					
Wages	102,552	99,358	3.22%	3,194	59,563
CPP	5,477	5,287	3.60%	190	2,784
EI	2,355	2,309	1.97%	46	1,371
WCB	3,066	2,693	13.88%	374	1,636
Group Medical & Life	9,699	9,034	7.36%	665	4,544
Pension	7,090	6,843	3.60%	246	3,688
<u>Total Salaries & Benefits</u>	<u>130,238</u>	<u>125,524</u>	<u>3.76%</u>	<u>4,715</u>	<u>73,587</u>
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Communications & Cable	948	2,100	(54.86%)	(1,152)	1,324
Advertising	0	300	(100.00%)	(300)	0
Insurance	885	885	0.00%	0	591
Personal Trainers	4,100	8,100	(49.38%)	(4,000)	3,900
Utilities	11,554	11,250	2.70%	304	8,103
Shared Expenses	9,000	9,000	0.00%	0	9,250
Operational Supplies	4,600	5,900	(22.03%)	(1,300)	5,463
Repairs & Maintenance	5,000	2,500	100.00%	2,500	797
<u>Total General Expenses</u>	<u>36,087</u>	<u>40,035</u>	<u>(9.86%)</u>	<u>(3,948)</u>	<u>29,429</u>
Total Expenses	166,325	165,558	0.46%	767	103,016
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(38,825)	(16,758)	131.67%	(22,067)	(20,570)

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
PARKS & FACILITIES					
Revenue					
<u>Facility Rentals</u>	<u>10,660</u>	<u>4,660</u>	<u>128.76%</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>14,207</u>
<u>Grants</u>					
Federal Government Grants	9,152	9,152	0.00%	0	10,318
Provincial Government Grants	5,824	5,824	0.00%	0	2,956
Local Government Grants	0	0	0.00%	0	250
<u>Total Grants</u>	<u>14,976</u>	<u>14,976</u>	<u>0.00%</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13,524</u>
Total Revenue	25,636	19,636	30.56%	6,000	27,731
Expenses					
<u>Salaries & Benefits</u>					
Hourly Wages	38,591	31,273	23.40%	7,318	38,654
CPP	1,895	1,444	31.19%	450	1,803
EI	882	727	21.35%	155	771
WCB	1,154	848	36.15%	306	1,057
Group Medical & Life	226	0	0.00%	226	0
Pension	277	0	0.00%	277	0
<u>Total Salaries & Benefits</u>	<u>43,025</u>	<u>34,292</u>	<u>25.47%</u>	<u>8,733</u>	<u>42,285</u>
<u>General Expenses</u>					
Travel	360	274	31.19%	86	19
Communications	1,102	790	39.52%	312	300
Facility Insurance	7,088	6,503	9.00%	585	4,911
Meals	100	100	0.00%	0	0
Utilities	5,274	5,135	2.70%	139	6,565
Tools & Equipment	4,700	4,700	0.00%	0	3,235
Safety Supplies	1,090	900	21.11%	190	401
<u>Total General Expenses</u>	<u>19,714</u>	<u>18,402</u>	<u>7.13%</u>	<u>1,312</u>	<u>15,431</u>
<u>Repairs & Maintenance</u>					
Park Maintenance	47,774	16,000	198.58%	31,774	1,324
General Repairs & Maintenance	5,000	5,000	0.00%	0	9,333
Ballfields Maintenance	0	6,000	(100.00%)	(6,000)	2,990
Tennis Courts Maintenance	0	500	(100.00%)	(500)	0
Splash Pad Maintenance	0	2,000	(100.00%)	(2,000)	1,436
Centennial Park Maintenance	0	0	0.00%	0	4,004
Spicer Park Maintenance	0	0	0.00%	0	0
Chute Park Maintenance	0	0	0.00%	0	0
Trails Maintenance	0	0	0.00%	0	3,617
Carol's Place Maintenance	0	8,600	(100.00%)	(8,600)	6,870
<u>Total Repairs & Maintenance</u>	<u>52,774</u>	<u>38,100</u>	<u>38.51%</u>	<u>14,674</u>	<u>29,574</u>
<u>Vehicle Expenses</u>					
Vehicle Insurance	3,739	2,877	29.95%	862	2,733
Vehicle Maintenance	5,850	1,450	303.45%	4,400	72,581
<u>Total Vehicle Expenses</u>	<u>9,589</u>	<u>4,327</u>	<u>121.59%</u>	<u>5,262</u>	<u>75,314</u>
<u>Long Term Debt</u>					
Principal	18,150	18,150	0.00%	0	0
Interest	7,517	7,933	(5.24%)	(415)	4,067

	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	%	\$	2025 YTD
Total Expenses	168,169	138,604	21.33%	29,565	185,030
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(142,533)	(118,968)	19.81%	(23,565)	(157,300)

Project Name	Project Description	Estimated Total Project Cost	Net Project Cost to Town
Solar Garden	Addition of physical barriers to separate roadway from exposed cabling (ref: Ray Grant)	100,000	-
WWTP Upgrades	Install of tertiary treatment system (filter) & drum screen replacement with auger screen	6,659,830	665,983
WWC Morse Pond Pump Station	Replacement 15 HP 600V submersible pump (Morse Pond)	22,673	22,673
WWT / WWC Data Monitoring	Implement SCADA System (treatment plan and liftstations)	54,525	54,525
WWC GVM Sewer Rates	Install a flowmeter at Ben Grove S/D PS to measure GVM flows	12,000	12,000
Asset Management	Brightly AM Software Implementation	18,290	-
Security Cameras Phase Two	Public Works and Solar Garden	12,000	-
Centennial/Rainforth Connect Trail	Accessible gravel trail to connect attractions and access points in both Centennial/Rainforth Parks (As per Centennial Park Plan Update)	12,500	3,750
BoxCar Finishes	Door Repair; interior finish of box cars	15,000	15,000
Ballfield Fencing Safety Improvements - Rainforth Park	Purchase and installation of plastic piping on top of new ball fencing (Safety Considerations)	5,000	1,500
Town Gateway - Beautification	Town entry beautification upon the reinstatement of the existing bridge project (Power, Path, Lights etc.)	25,000	12,500
Update of Multi-Generational Park Plan	Update of existing Park Plan (2013) to reflect current day, and future direction. Recommended scope of work from CDC for Council's consideration.	-	-
Roads, Trails, WWT Maintenance	Purchase Flail Mower attachment for the excavator, for ditch, trails, and berm maintenance	12,000	6,000
PW General	Install an Air Exchange for PW Shop Office	15,000	15,000
Fleet	New Plow Truck (Replace 2008). Frame is rotted (2024), high risk of not passing safety inspection in 2026.	350,000	350,000
Comprehensive Transportation Plan	Town Transportation Plan- identify what development is doing to traffic and how we are transporting goods; crosswalks; one-way streets	100,000	50,000
			-
		Total Investment	7,413,819
			1,208,931
Carry Forward 24/25			-
WWTP Aeration, Filter Pilot	Aeration of Lagoon 2; blowers; Pilot two options for WWTP: 1- Disc Filter 2- Sand Filter	2,518,000	681,017
Commercial St. Sewer	Wilson's Homestore Sewer Repair	100,000	100,000
		Total Carry Forward Approved 24/25	2,618,000
			2,618,000

Project Name	Project Description	Estimated Total Project Cost	Net Project Cost to Town
WWT Site Security	Site Security - Keyfobs on all WWT doors	10,000	10,000
WWC Pump Station Maintenance	Install crane on PW Truck for safe mechanical lifting in WWC	50,000	50,000
Ground Water Study	Potable water well monitoring program- Y1	50,000	50,000
Financial System	Implementation of Financial System: Go Live April 1, 2027	370,250	370,250
Parks Maintenance Equipment	New Zero-Turn mower to replace aging equipment. New to go to parks; oldest Parks to go to PW; oldest PW to be disposed.	15,000	15,000
Parks Beautification and Security	Centennial Park Main Entrance Upgrade (Union St) <i>Replace chain link fence w/ landscaping or other fencing to serve as a physical barrier from traffic</i>	50,000	50,000
Centennial Park Building Replacement	New building and washrooms with additional rec. equipment storage;	300,000	300,000
Bus Shelters	Kings Mutual, GVM, Main St. Video	45,000	45,000
Fleet	New Plow Truck (Replace 2005). Frame is rotted (2024), high risk of not passing safety inspection in 2026.	358,750	358,750
Storm	Replace cover on Foster / Main catch basin (manufacture + install)	11,000	11,000
Roads and Streets - Foster Design	Foster St. Main St. to Mill St. Design Review	50,000	50,000
Traffic Safety	Traffic Lights upgrade - Union / Commercial (needs new panel, PLC)	50,000	50,000
PW General	Replace Hwy 101 (westbound) Town of Berwick Sign	25,000	12,500
Total Investment		1,385,000	1,372,500

Project Name	Project Description	Estimated Total Project Cost	Net Project Cost to the Town
WWTP Upgrades	WWT - Desludge Cells 1, 2	1,000,000	500,000
WWC - Safety	WWC - Replacement covers (hatches, safety grates) for 2 pump stations - Main St, WWTPlant	50,000	50,000
WWC Asset Management	Mill St pump station Upgrade (eng design, pumps, panels, plumbing, valves)	500,000	250,000
Ground Water Study	Potable water well monitoring program- Y2	50,000	50,000
Fleet	Front line Pumper Tanker to replace Mack Tanker Unit #21	1,900,000	633,333
Centennial Park	Phase 2 Centennial Park- Pavillion etc.	100,000	33,333
Fleet	Replacement Sidewalk Machine w/ salter, plow (2015 MT Trackless)	215,378	215,378
Roads and Streets - Foster Construction	Phase 1-Mill St. to Union St.	1,625,000	562,500
Total Investment		5,440,378	2,294,544

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Project Name	Project Description	Estimated Total Project Cost	Net Project Cost to the Town
WWTP Upgrades	Upgrade Aeration / Curtain in Lagoon 3	1,000,000	500,000
Fleet Roads and Streets - Foster Construction	Replacement 1 ton w/ dump body and plow (gasoline or diesel) and salter Phase 2- Union St. to Cottage St.	275,953	275,953
Total Investment		2,900,953	1,338,453

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Project Name	Project Description	Estimated Total Project Cost	Net Project Cost to the Town
WWC Asset Management	Lawrence Ave pump station Upgrade (pumps, panel:	75,000	75,000
Fleet	Replacement PU Truck for Parks	125,000	125,000
Roads and Streets - Foster Construction	Phase 3-Cottage St. 1/2 way to Main St.	1,625,000	562,500
		Total Investment	1,825,000
			762,500

DRAFT

Year	Capital Reserves	Sewer Operating	Operating Reserves	Capital Out of General Operating	Prov Grant	Fed Grant	Other Contributions	Debt	Total
2025/26	30,014	83,934	79,000	-	3,360,665	2,713,932	130,290	1,015,983	7,413,818
2026/27	12,500	60,000	221,000	-	12,500	-	-	1,079,000	1,385,000
2027/28	-	100,000	33,333	-	1,000,000	879,167	1,266,667	2,161,211	5,440,378
2028/29	-	-	-	-	750,000	812,500	-	1,338,453	2,900,953
2029/30	-	75,000	-	-	250,000	812,500	-	687,500	1,825,000
Total	\$42,514	\$ 318,934	\$ 333,333	\$ -	\$ 5,373,165	\$ 5,218,099	\$ 1,396,957	\$ 6,282,148	\$ 18,965,150
Forecasted Reserve Balance	<u>\$ 1,587,666</u>	<u>\$ 93,264</u>	<u>\$ 355,177</u>						

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Berwick & District Vol. Fire Dept. Feb. 2025

February 18, 2025

Training: We are taking a back-to-basics approach in our training. As we bring our newer members up to speed, we know that it is important that every firefighter and officer know the fundamentals of firefighting. I am pleased by our ongoing training commitment.

Equipment/ Repairs: We continue to see minor repairs happening to our fleet, just recently we had to replace our battery charger on our frontline pumper. These repairs may seem small, but they carry a hefty cost.

Building: We have had damage from our roof leaking during our last thaw. We are unable to make the appropriate repairs due to the amount of snow and ice in the area. I have notified a contractor to have a look once our weather begins to improve.

Water Storage Project: This project is nearing the final stages. Some final additions to the pump and a walk through with the contractor and if all goes well, we should be filling the storage tank within the next couple of weeks.

Budget: I wanted to share with you where we are as a department and our equipment. When we sat down at our hall to begin to discuss ideas for capital projects, we had a challenging time to produce a specific project. In the end we produced projects to help maintain the property once the new bridge is open and our lot restored to its original state. My point is through the continued support from the Town of Berwick, Fire Commission, and our firefighters, we have top of the line equipment to answer any call that may come our way. You should take immense pride in this.

Kind Regards,

Luke Redden

Department: Community Development
Date: February 2025

Council Priorities

- **Increased Programming/Programming for all ages:**
 - Berwick Memory Cafe continued February 11, with ten people in attendance at the Evangeline Club. The next Cafe is March 11, and staff continue to assist with promotion, registration and general program support.
 - Adventures in Storytime, a literacy-based program in partnership with the Kings County Family Resource Centre, began February 20th. This program serves a dual purpose of serving youth and their parents.
 - Our free afterschool drop-in program “Wednesday Sports Zone” remains a popular option. The program has seen an increase in sign-ups since last month, going from 12 to 15 participants.
 - Table Tennis, Drop-in Basketball and Line Dancing are all still up and running throughout the Winter. Numbers have been growing for Table Tennis. Basketball numbers have been dropping in the Winter, while Line Dancing stays consistent at 20-30 people each Friday.
 - Staff are working to offer a “learn to play” pickleball session and supporting independent pick-up groups.
 - The Town of Berwick has partnered with Acadia University and their “Active for Life” program. It is running out of the Town Hall gymnasium 11:45am-12:45pm every Tuesday and Thursday from January 14th to April 3rd. The goal of the program is to improve quality of life for individuals in our community and minimize the impact of chronic conditions on the body.
 - Staff were contacted by Outside the Box, a local day program for adults with disabilities in a search for an indoor space to run their program. They use the gymnasium one afternoon weekly.

Key highlights

- Despite winter weather, Light the Nights was a community success story. Local organizations ran successful events and partnerships were invaluable. The postponed “Glow in the Snow” event will be rescheduled in the coming weeks.
- The Accessibility Plan, with a chapter on equity and diversity, has been revised with feedback from the Accessibility Advisory Committee and will be reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meeting.
- The Kings County Family Resource Centre partnered to host Bernie’s Buddies, a grief literacy workshop for young children on February 22nd at Carol’s Place.

- The Berwick Gala Days Committee has begun meeting and planning for the 2025 event. Staff continue to attend committee meetings and provide support where possible.
- Staff are supporting regular user groups of the gymnasium to keep the facility clean with an increase of salt and sand over the winter months.
- Berwick and District School will be hosting a newcomer cafe on February 26th and staff are giving a brief presentation and will have a table at this event.
- Staff continue to support the Sports Hall of Fame Committee with planning and preparation for a June event.
- Staff continue to attend School Advisory Committee meetings at Berwick and District School and support the school in other ways – including an upcoming Winter Walk with the Valley Wildcats.
- Exploring potential projects and offerings for this summer following the completion of boxcar improvements at Heritage Station Park.
- Working to design an improved town entryway to complement the upcoming bridge repair, including items such as lighting and signage.
- Reviewing and updating the existing BDCA agreement, incorporating valuable community feedback into our requests.
- The Valley Jr. A Wildcats and Town of Berwick welcomed several local businesses to the Wildcats game on February 21st for Small Business Appreciation Night, with several local businesses participating.
- Walk n’ Roll continues at the Kings Mutual Century Centre on Mondays and Thursdays. The numbers vary but participation at its highest has been 10 people.
- The Trail Coalition is continuing to meet regarding how to move forward as a group. A facilitated discussion hosted by provincial employees is expected to take place in March.
- Winter equipment loan program rentals have been steady, skis, snowshoes and sleds have all had around an equal amount of use. Orchards Away Daycare has taken advantage of sleds and snowshoes on each snow day.
- Staff presented the department's strategic direction and goal setting information to the Community Development Committee for review and input.
- HUBS project in partnership with Cycle Nova Scotia is currently on hold as they await confirmation of funding, work is expected to continue in March.

Next Month Priorities:

- Grant applications to support programming and upcoming events, through 2025
- Call for volunteer nominations from the community
- Winter Walk Day with the Wildcats on March 6th with Berwick and District School
- Advertising and interviewing for Summer Day Camp positions.
- Exploring options to offer female after school programming and drop-in gym time

for youth and families.

Department: Public Works
Date: February 2025

Council Priorities

Finalize Asset Management: Ongoing.

- Provision for AM Software included in Draft 2025/26 Operating Budget.
- Next Steps:
 - Receive training on GIS mapping Software from AIM Network.
 - Update AM plan to account for 2024/25 paving work and vector / CCTV work and findings.
 - 2 April meeting with Brightly (AM software system).

Storm Water Management: Ongoing.

- 30 Jan kick-off meeting with CBCL.
- Field Visit scheduled for 10 Feb delayed due to weather. Rescheduled tentative week of 24 Feb.
- Next Steps:
 - Organize Public Engagement Session for Stormwater Management Plan work scope (tentative March 10th at the Fire Hall).
 - Additional work required on the open ditch behind Horsburgh Dr now that the ground is frozen.
 - Install galvanized culvert grates for the storm culvert near Eden Valley, once built.
 - Work with property owners to construct a swale between civics 134, 136 Foster St to manage storm runoff from street; to happen in the spring when the ground firms, and vegetation growing.

WWTP Upgrades – Aeration & Blowers: Ongoing.

- 23 Jan sign contract (Gary Parker Excavating Ltd, Town of Berwick).
- Next Steps:
 - Equipment and Materials in the process of being ordered by the contractor (ongoing).
 - Begin work.

WWTP Upgrades – Tertiary Filtration: Ongoing.

- 31 Jan Notification sent to selected proponent.
- Next Steps:
 - Issue a purchase order (or letter from Dillon, signed by the town).

Sidewalk Upgrades – Maple Avenue: Ongoing.

- 19 Jan Concept Design Report received from CBCL; currently under review.

- Next Steps:
 - Report to council at a later date.

Key Highlights

Operations:

- Removal of holiday decorations (Commercial St, Town Hall)
- Plowing, salting, sanding underway.
- WW Treatment:
 - Drum screen failures have occurred multiple times in November and December to date; repairs completed.
 - Upgrades to wastewater pre-treatment ongoing at Eden Valley, which has had some short-term impacts on the drum screens.
 - Beginning work on the sludge lagoon to shore up the berms in preparation for spring thaw and rains.
- WW Collection:
 - 18 Feb Eastern Trenchless onsite to camera a section of Commercial Street to prepare the bid for expandable patching.
 - No updates this month, other than already stated.

Capital (e.g. not already mentioned):

- Centennial Park Building
 - Low-cost temporary building constructed to house plumbing and electrical needs for Rainforth Park and the ball field.
 - Temporary building insulated and rough-finished in Jan; electrical and plumbing completed.
- Fleet Management devices (GPS) received; installs completed.
- Accessible Customer Service
 - Awaiting materials arrival to begin millwork; once millwork completed, work at Town Hall will begin.
 - Anticipated 4 weeks to complete once onsite work has started.

Next Month Priorities:

- Continue snow removal.
- Continue brush, limb removal along South St.
- RFP for Solar Garden Grounds Maintenance.
- RFP for WWT Laboratory Testing.
- Maple Ave sidewalk – review of concept design with Council.
- WWTP upgrades progression.

Department: Finance
Date: February 2025

Council Priorities

- **Finalize Asset Management:**
 - **Bi-Weekly Meetings with Atlantic Infrastructure Management Network**
– These meetings have been on pause since December due to time constraints.

Key Highlights

Berwick Electric Commission (BEC)

- **Maritime Municipal Electric Utility Alliance (MMEUA):**
 - Saint John Energy (SJE) came to Berwick on February 3rd and 4th to provide support and information regarding the AMI Smart Meters project and NRCAN due diligence budget questions.
 - SJE continues to be instrumental in supporting BEC with securing funding sources as we work toward our grid modernization within the utility.
 - An official press release announcing the MMEAU was released on February 10th, 2025. Our website is live at <https://mmeua.ca/>
- **Insurance Claim-Factorydale Turbine:** Hysovent has responded to inquiries from the insurance adjuster and prepared a detailed report regarding the root cause of the breakdown and proposed solution. The Notice of Interest closed, with seven interests received. The RFP has been prepared and will be posted shortly.
- **Solar Garden Ownership:** Communication continues regarding ownership of the Solar Garden asset.
- **2025/26 Budget Preparation:** Staff continue to work through the 2025/26 draft Operating Budget and Five-Year Capital Plan for the BEC. This will be presented to the Commission for approval later for adoption prior to April 1, 2025.
- **Bell & Eastlink:** Staff are working with the telecommunications companies to ensure agreements are in place for billing out of moving lines on BEC poles.

Town of Berwick

- **2023/24 Financial Information Return:** The report has been filed with the province.
- **2025/26 Budget Preparation:** Staff continue to work diligently on the draft Operating and Capital budget for the upcoming fiscal year. V2 of the Draft Operating Budget and the draft capital investment plan are prepared and presented to Council this evening for consideration and direction.
- **Sewer Rate Review:** Finance staff has compiled a list of current dwellings and the nature of businesses within the Town. A multiplier will be applied to each category

and utilized to determine the required sewer rate to balance the budget. This work is currently in progress, and we are utilizing resources from the Municipality of Kings to compare for consistency in multipliers. WWTP staff and Director have worked diligently to ensure accurate flow data is now being acquired from the industrial customer, which has not been reviewed for the past 5 years.

- **Audit Committee:** Attended the meeting on January 7th, 2025. Please see the Chair's report for details.
- **Audit Services:** Council awarded the five-year contract to Doane Grant Thornton and communication has been provided to their office.
- **Insurance Claim- Flood at Public Works/BEC Shop:** The claim has been finalized and provided to the insurance adjuster for review and processing.
- **CUPE Labour Management:** Staff have met several times in preparation for collective bargaining negotiations.
- **Key Fob Systems:** Key fobs have been provided to staff and are being programmed.
- **AREA Board Meeting Jan. 29th :** Attended the AREA Board meeting.
- **Audit Committee Meeting Feb.5th:** Attended the Audit Committee meeting. The Committee recommended Council award Doane Grant Thornton the five year audit services contract. The Committee recommended a temporary financial resource to support the department with ensuring tasks are up to date.

Next Month Priorities:

- **25/26 Capital and Operating budget revisions. Working toward approval of the 25/26 budget prior to April 1st.**
- **February 27th: Public Budget Information session.**
- **March 4th: BEC Board Meeting**
- **Factorydale Turbine Insurance Claim:** Support for Owner's Engineer and FCM funding application.
- **Sewer Rate Review:** Provide proposed rates for Council's review in March.
- **CUPE Collective Bargaining.**

Department: CAO and Administration
Date: February 2025

Key Highlights

Berwick Electric

- BEC hosted Saint John Energy on February 4 and 5 to discuss additional due diligence questions for our NRCAN AMI meters application and met with AREA regarding energy trading desk options.
- The Maritime Municipal Electric Utility Alliance (MMEUA) was officially announced by a press release on February 10th. The MMEUA has already been so valuable in assisting with our NRCAN applications. Next, we will be focusing on strategic planning and utility benchmarking.
- BEC submitted the Dam Safety Review to the NSUARB on February 20, 2025, according to the NSUARB Order from the 2023 General Rate Application. The Safety Review recommending updating the dam's Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) to meet Canadian Dam Safety (CDA) Guidelines, which was also a requirement per the NSUARB Order. Staff are preparing this update and will submit the completed EPP by March 20, 2025.
- The NSUARB provided their decision regarding the NSPI's approval of its 2025 Fuel Adjustment Mechanism (FAM) AA/AB Rider on February 18, 2025. Although they didn't accept our argument that NSPI's proposed refund from the \$500M federal guarantee should completely wipe out the MEU FAM obligation, they did accept that the full time period out to December 2024 should be used to calculate the refund, which will increase the size of the refund to the MEUs from the amount NSPI had originally proposed. In addition, the NSUARB specifically noted NSP's commitment to work with the MEUs to ensure no rate shock because of the recovery of the FAM balance.
- In early February, two inverters were replaced at the solar garden. To-date, three have been replaced within the first 14 months of operation. Although these inverters are covered under warranty, the labour to replace the inverters is not. Additionally, the flow through transformer that has been offline since July 2024, will be shipped to Saskatchewan next week for repair. Staff are investing any performance warranties related to this work.

Town

- The AREA Board met on January 29, 2025, in Halifax. Following the formal portion of the board meeting, the Interim GM ran the group through the first phase in our

strategic planning by reviewing/amending the SWOT analysis completed in February 2023. AREA has engaged Deloitte to develop the strategic plan. The next step will be one on one meetings with the Town's Utilities to understand their visions, challenges and requirements/expectations from AREA in the future.

- The CAO's from municipal units involved in the Interim IMSA Board continue to meet to discuss recommendations to the IMSA Board regarding membership, governance and funding for Valley Waste and Kings Transit.
- The CAO attended the Valley Regional Enterprise Network Municipal Engagement Session with other CAO's regarding a Regional Marketing Levy. Additional engagement sessions with municipal and industry stakeholders will be held over the next couple of months.
- CUPE bargaining will begin in early March. The current agreement expires March 31, 2025. Staff have been preparing a proposal to present.
- Staff continue to work on budget preparation, changes and public engagement. A date of February 27 has been set for the public engagement session.
- The CAO completed the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) training on February 20, 2025. Kings REMO Coordinator and a representative from the Nova Scotia Department of Emergency Management were the instructors.
- The CAO attended the NSFM & CIBX – What does the Economic Outlook look like for Canada? Presentation virtually on February 19.

Next Month Priorities:

- 2025/26 Budget Preparation and Engagement
- CUPE bargaining
- Factorydale Emergency Preparedness Plan update and submission
- Grant Preparation for 2025/26 projects

Committee Report

Committee Name: Audit Committee

Meeting Date: February 5, 2025

Submitted by: Councillor Jamieson

Key Agenda Items:

- Review of Auditing Services tender submissions
- Audit Committee Training - reminder

Key Discussion or Decisions:

- The committee reviewed and recommended to Council the appointment of Doane Grant Thornton as the Town's (and BEC) auditor for the next 5 years (2025-2029). Only Two (2) tender responses were received, Doane Grant Thornton (DGT) and MNP. DGT pricing was \$32,525 less than MNP tender and offered more flexibility. Audit services had last been tendered in 2015, for the year 2016. Morse, Brewster and Lake had previously provided audit services.
- The committee also noted that bank reconciliations are critical to providing tighter internal controls and there needs additional resources. The committee recommends that Council give serious consideration to providing the resources needed to bring the reconciliations up to date and maintaining them in a current state.
- All Audit Committee members were reminded to complete the electronic Audit Training for members.
- The next date for the Audit Committee is anticipated in April 2025 and after 2024/25 fiscal year end.

Committee Report

Committee Name: Accessibility Committee

Meeting Date: February 10, 2025

Submitted by: Councillor Johanna Kwakernaak

Key Agenda Items:

- Crystal McCormack, Citizen Representative, new member
- Accessibility Report
- Report. On Declaration of Black History Month
- Loss of Seating in lobby of KMCC
- Accessibility Survey Results and Draft Plan

Key Discussion or Decisions:

- We welcomed Crystal MacCormack to the Accessibility Committee, Crystal brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our Committee.
- There was feedback on the action items from the report. The Front Desk renovations to improve accessibility will begin shortly and take 4-5 weeks.
- The report on the event was briefly discussed. Key points were the value of the event, the sense of community at the event, and pride in the, attendance of community members including the Berwick Girl Guides. At the. Event the Chair was made aware that a motion to host Understanding Our History for elected officials in the future.
- A concern regarding the loss of seating in the lobby of KMCCC and its relationship to accessibility was discussed. This concern has been moved forward to the appropriate Committee.
- Staff presented the results of the on-line survey. The survey results informed the draft Accessibility plan.
- The draft plan was discussed and revisions and additions were recommended. Staff will make edits to the plan and forward this to the committee. Staff have met with representatives of the province to review work thus far and are reassured that work thus far meets requirements.
- We are confident that The report will be ready for submission by the April 1 deadline.
- As Chair I would like to point out how valuable the ability to have virtual attendance at meetings. Though at times technology will fail us it means that meetings are more accessible.

Johanna Kwakernaak

Submitted Feb 15, 2025

Committee Report

Committee Name: Valley REN-LOC

Meeting Date: February 3, 2025

Submitted by: Councillor Jamieson

The Valley REN is a multi-year sector business development support service that assists in economic growth. The REN initiative is made possible by the existing partners, Glooscap First Nation, the Municipality of the County of Kings, West Hants Regional Municipality, and the Towns of Berwick, Kentville, Wolfville, and Middleton, and is supported by the Province of Nova Scotia.

Key Agenda Items:

- the Terms of Reference for the LOC and approval of the updated Chair and Vice Chair Role and Responsibilities
- Election of Chair and Vice-chair. Councillor John Bartlett was elected as chair of the Valley REN- LOC.
- Review of a Letter of Intent for Annapolis County to join as a funding partner
- Review the Valley REN Draft 2025-2026 Budget, Business Plan Overview and past years activity.

Key Discussion or Decisions:

It is noted that on February 11th, 2025 a further meeting of the LOC occurred to approve the letter of intent outlining support to have the Municipality of the County of Annapolis join Valley REN as a funding partner with no additional cost to the existing partners. It is anticipated that the Province of Nova Scotia will extend funding support.

Last week the Valley REN advised that the Cumberland Business Connector, in partnership with Nova Scotia's Regional Enterprise Networks, is hosting Nova Scotia's premier Economic Development Conference at the Fox Harbour Resort from April 29-30th, 2025. The event is intended to bring together business leaders, policymakers, and economic development professionals.

The primary goals are to identify growth areas in different sectors, explore streamlining productivity & regulations and identify market expansion through export.

Committee Report



As a finding partner representation is extended to the Town of Berwick. I leave it to Council if representation should occur or if this should be delegated to staff for follow-up.

Respectively Submitted
Councillor Jamieson
Alternate member Valley REN-LOC

Committee Report

Committee Name: IMSA Board

Meeting Date: February 19, 2025

Submitted by: Mayor Trinacty

Key Agenda Items:

- Kings transit GM's Report
- King's Transit Quarterly Financial report
- Valley Region Solid Waste Authority GM's Report
- Valley Waste Quarterly Financial Report

Key Discussion or Decisions:

- Bus maintenance continues to be an issue
- Bus tracking software has been purchased and is being installed
- Ridership numbers are down due to some cancelled routes due to the weather and a change in the recording system. Riders transferring are only counted once now.
- Kings Transit staff have been working with two proposals for the electric buses and have received several applications for the general manager's position.
- The Kings Transit budget is on pace at the third quarter.
Valley Waste has awarded the contract for engineering services for the expansion of the Eastern Management Centre and have applied for funding to the Canadian Housing Infrastructure fund for the construction.
- The two new balers for cardboard are not in each of the Management Centre and the Eastern Centre now has a depot for the bulking of motor oil.
- The BIG NEWS is Valley Waste was named a leader in sustainability in Canada in 2024 by Call2Recycle for their recycling of batteries. There are great stats in recycling in other categories as well.
- At this quarter the budget is looking like a surplus but anything can happen!



NOVA SCOTIA

Municipal Affairs Office of the Minister

PO Box 216, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2M4 • Telephone 902 424-5550 Fax 902 424-0581 • novascotia.ca

February 11, 2025

Dear Mayors and Wardens:

Recent events in our world are changing the landscape of our province and country. We are experiencing new fiscal challenges that will have a significant impact on our economy. It is clear we need to become more self-reliant. And, at the same time, we need to better integrate our economy with other Canadian provinces and territories.

Our Government has recently announced that Nova Scotia must say “yes” to both a reduction in inter-provincial trade barriers, and to resource development within our province. Both steps need to be taken carefully and in consultation with our communities. Resource development, in particular, is of incredible importance.

If you are supportive and agree, I am asking for you and your council to signal your support for greater resource development within our province - by letter or press release.

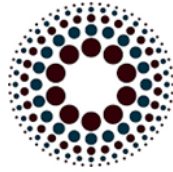
Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. Lohr".

Honourable John A. Lohr
Minister of Municipal Affairs

c: Chief Administrative Officers
Juanita Spencer, NSFM



Delivered via email

February 12, 2025

RE: Letter from Honourable John Lohr (February 11)

Hello Elected Municipal Officials,

With regard to the letter received by Mayors and Wardens from the Honourable John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs, dated February 11 (a copy is enclosed for your reference), we recognize that this letter raises important questions and want to let you know that we are actively seeking clarity on these matters. Our goal is to provide you with the insights needed to make informed decisions on these complex issues.

NSFM is aware that there are possible impacts on each municipality, and on you as elected officials, and that more information is needed before you can respond to the request put forth. Know that we are working with the Province to gather that information. Specifically, we are focused on the call for greater resource development within Nova Scotia and the reduction of inter-provincial trade barriers and what this means. We know both are important as we move forward as a province. With regard to the resource development, it is imperative we are clear on the ask and that the Province is aware of limitations, for example, on protection of our watersheds and other water sources, so that we can all move forward together in the best way.

We remain committed to supporting all Nova Scotia municipalities. Through collaboration and open communication, we can leverage our collective strength to navigate these challenges in a way that benefits our communities and benefits the province as a whole. A win-win.

We will reach out as we have further information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at info@nsfm.ca. Hoping this helps!

Sincerely,

Pam Mood
President
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

Subject: FW: Municipal response to Minister Lohr re. resource development

Subject: Municipal response to Minister Lohr re. resource development

Dear Mayors, Wardens and Councillors,

On Feb. 11, 2025, all Mayors and Wardens received a letter from Municipal Affairs Minister John Lohr asking you to “signal your support for greater resource development in our province by letter or press release.” I am writing to ask you to decline this invitation. Why?

The Minister is asking you to give a sight unseen, blanket endorsement for resource development. What resources? The Minister does not say. What would be the short and long-term impact on your community? What would be the impact on drinking water, air quality, roads, farmland? Would toxic waste be generated? How much, how would it be dealt with, how long would it last? What would be the costs and benefits to your community? At this time, there is no way to know the answers to these questions.

Minister Lohr is asking you to give **uninformed consent to unknown projects**.

I would like to suggest it would be in the best interests of municipalities and your citizens to hold back on this request, take a more cautious approach and maintain your ability to address resource development on the basis of specific facts.

- Municipal voices provide important balance in decision making. Giving blanket support for unknown or previously rejected resource development, as Minister Lohr is requesting, weakens that independent voice.
- Municipalities are best able to protect citizens by retaining your ability and leverage to give informed opinion on individual projects when full details are known.
- There is no need to act in haste. Better to consider both immediate and long-term consequences. There is more than one approach that Nova Scotia can take to address present and coming challenges.

Municipalities have played a valuable role as leaders in protecting the health and safety of their citizens and the livability of their communities. Municipalities took the lead in adopting smoke-free public spaces and limiting cosmetic pesticide use, based on scientific evidence. The UNSM also passed a resolution (2013) calling for an extended moratorium on fracking pending a comprehensive review.

When the Independent Review panel made its report in 2014, they recommended that “Hydraulic fracturing for the purpose of unconventional gas and oil development should not proceed at the present time in Nova Scotia.” They also outlined several conditions that should be met before considering fracking, including independent scientific research and a test of community permission to proceed. These conditions have not been met.

The science of the past 10 years confirms that health and environmental risks relating to fracking are far from being resolved. In many cases those risks are even greater than we knew 10 years ago. Regulations have not, and in many cases cannot, solve these problems. (See attached letter for additional information.)

Meaningful, mature, and evidence-based discussions were the foundation for the present moratoriums on hydraulic fracturing in shale and uranium. **Such discussion, including thorough evidence-based evaluation of short and longer term risks and benefits should come first, before any decision to reverse a ban or moratorium.**

The Independent Review Panel on Fracking also stated, "We strongly suggest that whatever time is needed for each of these steps that it should be taken, without any sense of deadline-setting or impatience by any actor."

That advice, coming from non-partisan experts, might be helpful for municipalities to consider in deciding how to respond to the Minister.

We all want what is best for Nova Scotia. We all want a truly sustainable province on a sustainable planet. In that spirit, I hope municipalities will keep an independent and thoughtful approach to resource development, as well as other issues, in the interests of their citizens.

Sincerely,

Barb Harris
River John

Author: [*Out of Control: Nova Scotia's Experience with Fracking for Shale Gas* \(2013\)](#)
Former Steering Committee member, Nova Scotia Fracking Resource and Action Coalition (NOFRAC)

Attached: Background Information on Fracking in Letter to my MLA, 13 Feb/ 2025

cc: CAOs
Federation of NS Municipalities
<Letter to Marco MacLeod, MLA, Feb 13, 2025.pdf>

Kings County Seniors' Safety Society
Website: kingsseniorsafety.org Email: paullannan@eastlink.ca

Mayor Mike Trinacity
Berwick Town Hall, 236 Commercial Street
PO Box 130, Berwick, NS
B0P 1E0

Dear Mayor Trinacity,

The Kings Seniors' Safety Society (KCSSS) has had a very busy year expanding programs and hiring and training a new staff member. We want to thank the Town of Berwick for its past support of our program in service to the seniors of the Town of Berwick and the donation made of \$2000 in 2024. This was appreciated in our efforts to serve seniors.

The current societal situation of many citizens continues to cause pressure on the social services programs in our area. The high cost of living with expensive food, gas, oil and other items necessary for survival along with a severe lack of available housing lead to a crisis with people being unable to find appropriate shelter or afford basic necessities. We have a health care system with many not being able to find a family doctor or access health care in a timely manner. The above inflationary and societal pressures have a great impact on our vulnerable seniors living with physical and mental health challenges, those in vulnerable housing situations and those who are isolated.

The services of the KCSSS continue to be focused on keeping seniors living safely in the community and we find that due to above mentioned difficulties, our services are now in greater demand than ever. We are growing our program in order to meet the new reality of an aging population combined with the above challenges. This past year we hired a part-time Coordinator to work alongside our full time Director to reach our clients with home visits, put on academies and workshops, assist the police forces in our area in dealing with vulnerable seniors, hold shredding events, provide educational information, materials and tool kits both online and hard copy. The two staff work diligently to assist seniors in many different capacities, yet even with two of them, there is so much more that needs to be done and could be done. The needs are significant within our senior population.

The Town of Berwick continues to have a significant senior population. As such, the KCSSS provides important services to many of the Berwick residents, ensuring that seniors are supported in living safely in Berwick, enhancing the well being and vibrancy of the community as a whole, and ensuring that Berwick remains a safe and desirable community for seniors. Our Program Director and Coordinator have made many home visits in the Berwick area and put on presentations to Berwick area groups. They have provided assistance to many Berwick area seniors in a variety of capacities.

As we face ongoing challenges caused by inflation and an aging population and recognizing the need to grow our program further, we are asking that the Town of Berwick again recognize the impact and importance of the KCSSS to the well being of the Town of Berwick and provide funding to match the funding from other towns in Kings County to an annual grant of \$5,000. With this continuing support we would be able to grow our services, increase staffing and further expand our programs and greatly enhance our ability to provide services to the seniors of both Berwick and Kings County.

To discuss this request and provide more in depth information we would be happy to meet with the Town of Berwick decision makers. Again, thanking you for the support you gave us last year. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Alison Lannan 
Chair of Fundraising Committee, KCSSS
Cc: Jen Boyd, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Berwick

Krista Longmire

Subject: FW: Basic Income public meeting

To: Mike Trinacty <mike.trinacty@gmail.com>

Subject: Basic Income public meeting

Hi Mike,

I'm involved with Basic Income Nova Scotia and we are planning to hold a public meeting on Sat April 5th at 2:30 PM at the Berwick Lions Hall.

At this time, Kings West Community Health Board, Basic Income Nova Scotia and Annapolis Valley Community Food Council are co sponsoring the event.

I'd like to ask the Town of Berwick to consider joining this list of sponsoring organizations. The event itself is simply an information sharing session. We will show the Documentary film ... " A Human Picture" which is a first person account of the Ontario Basic Income pilot project. There will be opportunity for questions from the audience as well as literature made available for all of our guests.

There is no request for any financial support. I may however ask the Town to allow me to do some photocopying, {100 pages or less}

Thanks very much for bringing this to Council .

Johanna Kwakernack is also on our planning committee and can provide any additional information you may require.

Greg Hubbert

MAYOR'S REPORT

FROM _____ Feb 11/25 _____ TO ___ Feb 25/25 _____

Date	Lead	Purpose
Feb 11	LOC	Finalize letter to Annapolis County
Feb 11	Town Council	Regular council
Feb 13	Public Hearing	Bentley Commercial St Proposal
Feb 15	Boy Scouts Breakfast	Annual Awards
Feb 19	IMSA Board meeting	GM reports and Financial updates
Feb 19	Community Development Committee	Regular meeting
Feb 21	CAO meeting	various
Feb 24	Phone meeting mayor Mahone Bay	AREA
Feb 24	Management Staff	Public Budget Planning Session