

Feedback from Public Information Meeting

February 27, 2025

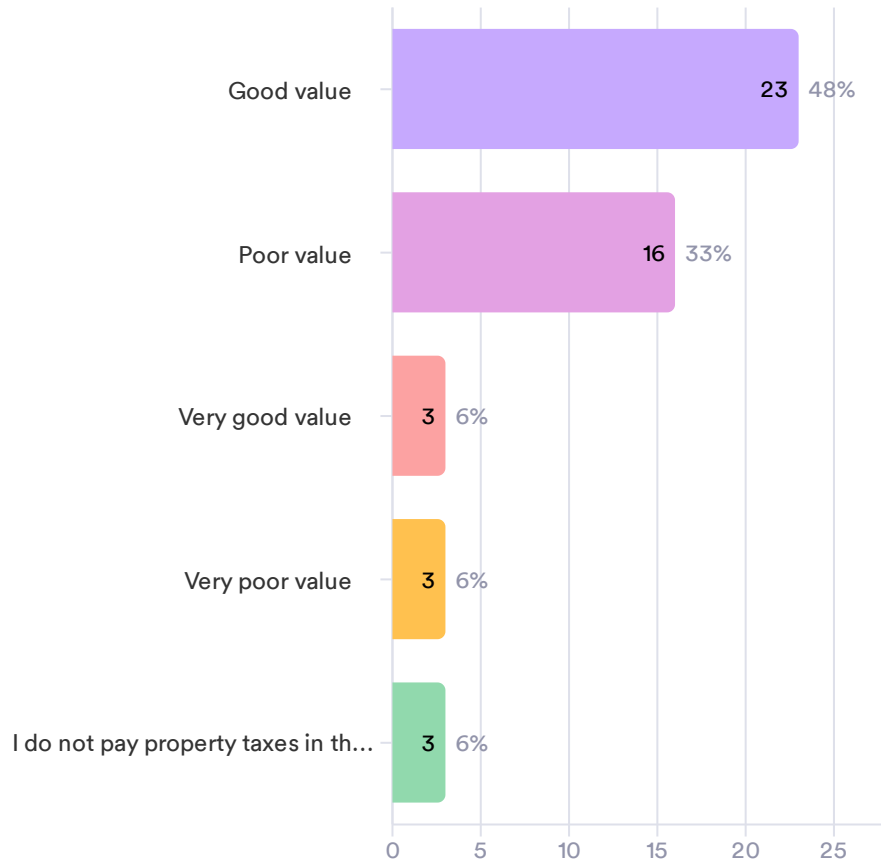
TOPIC	INPUT/CONCERN
Transportation	Use community expertise for studies
Solar Garden	Public "access" to solar generation
RCMP	High budget No visibility Cost comparison to other police services/service level Response time Ensure RCMP have finger on the pulse Copy of service agreement with RCMP and Province
Budget/Tax Rate	When was the last time taxes were increased How much is a healthy reserve fund Zero increase equals zero sense Assumptions made in budget - market increasing for beyond CPI 2%
Education	No control
Bylaw	No added FTE Organizational chart on website
Adminstration	Paper pushers An increase in staffing levels?
VCFN	Is there a revenue opportunity? Status quo system for while
Fitness Centre	Concern over deficit year after year
Comms	Hard to find information Do not over use text alert

Budget Survey Results

Summary of Responses

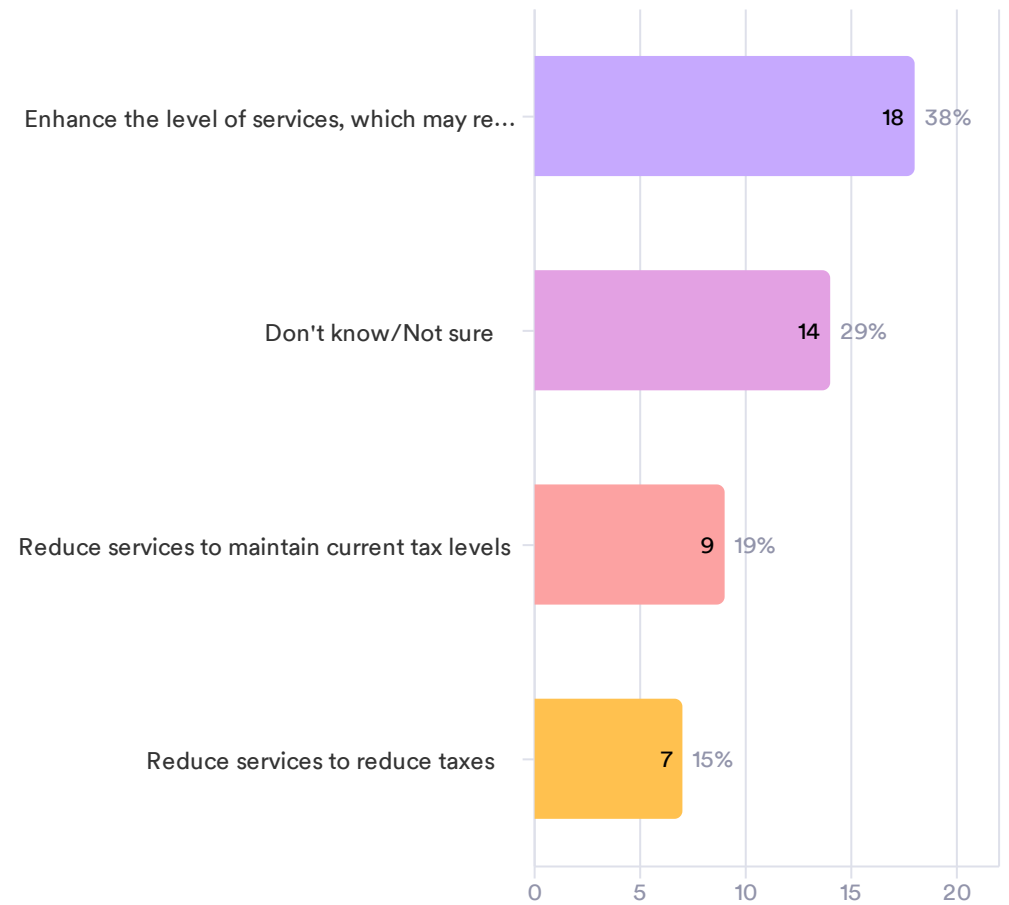
Overall, how would you rate the value you receive for the property tax you pay?

48 Responses



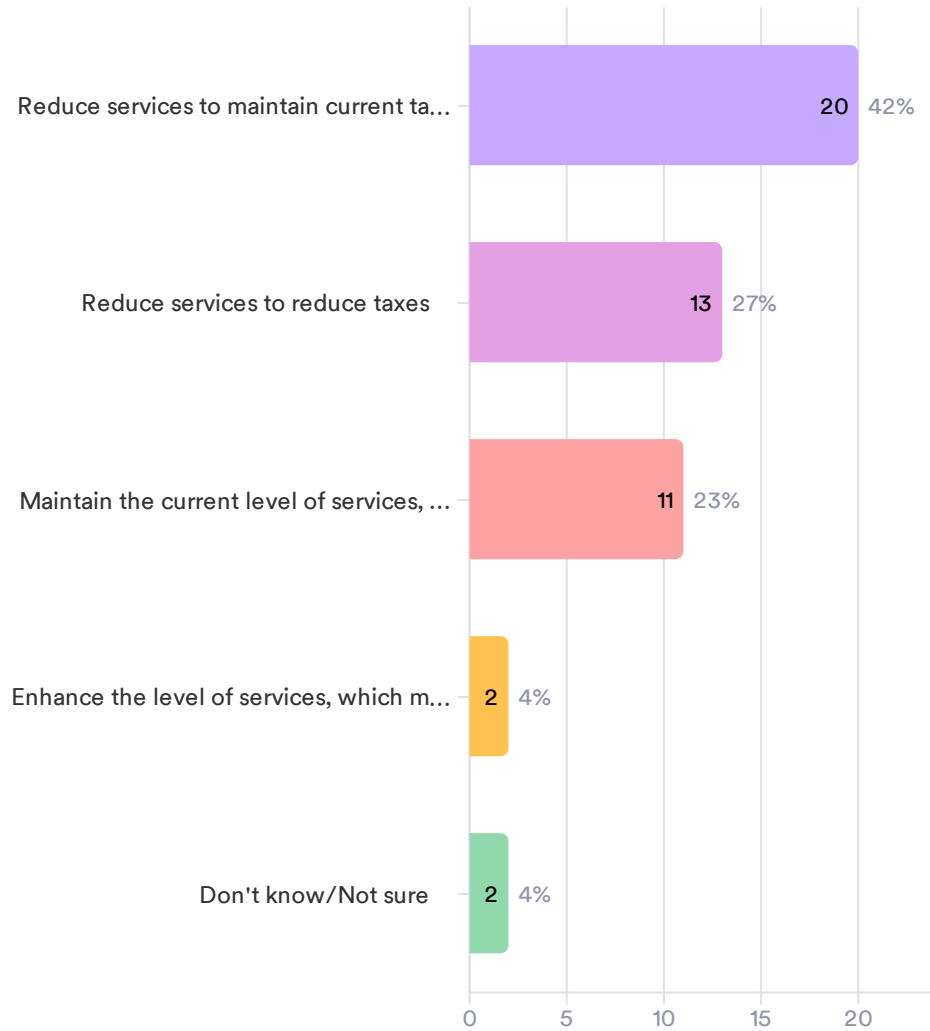
Public Works

48 Responses



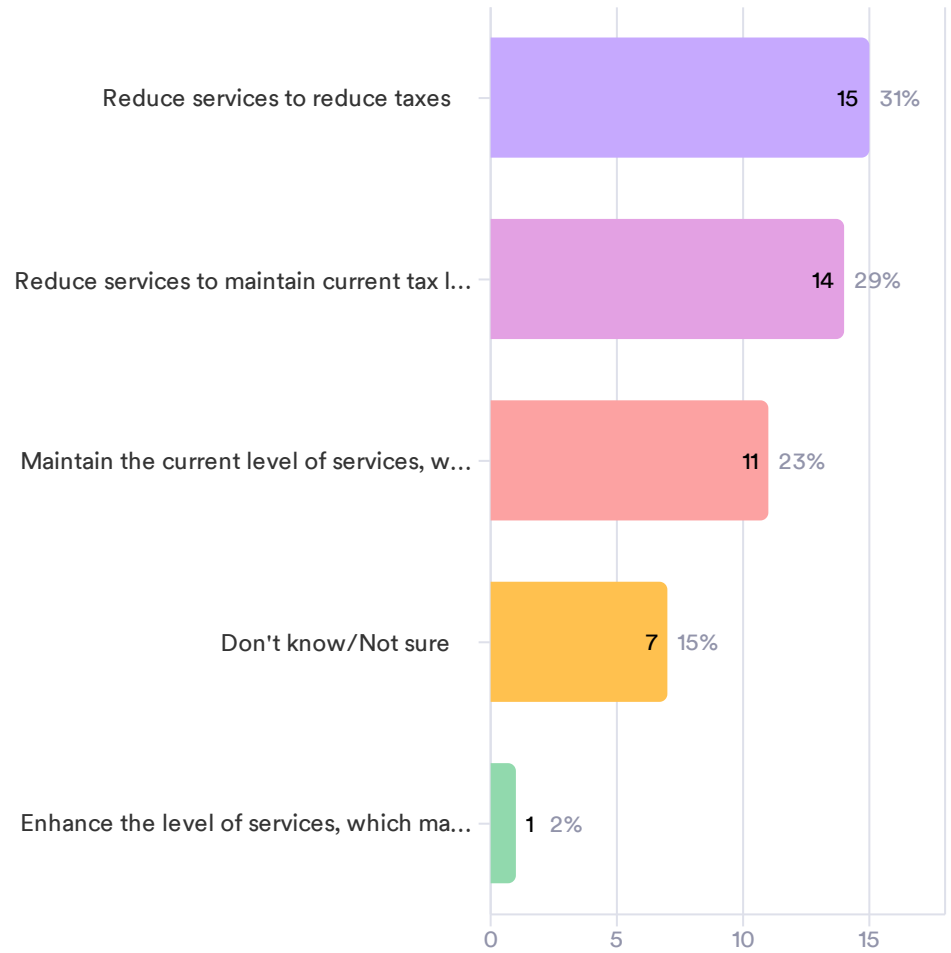
Community Development & Recreation

48 Responses



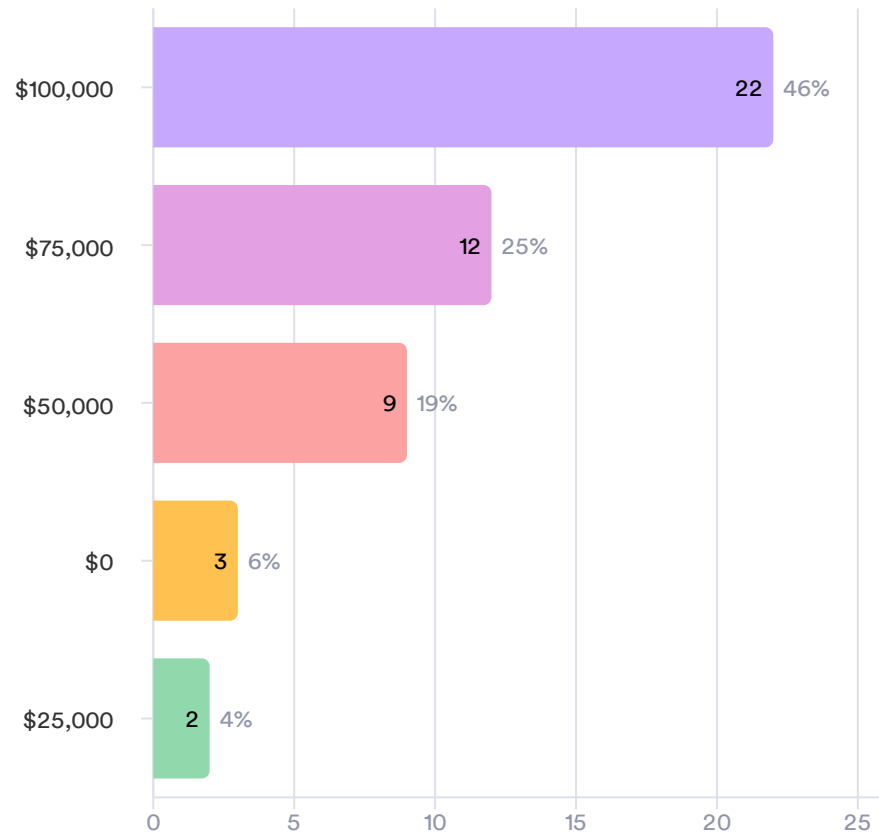
General Government & Administration

48 Responses



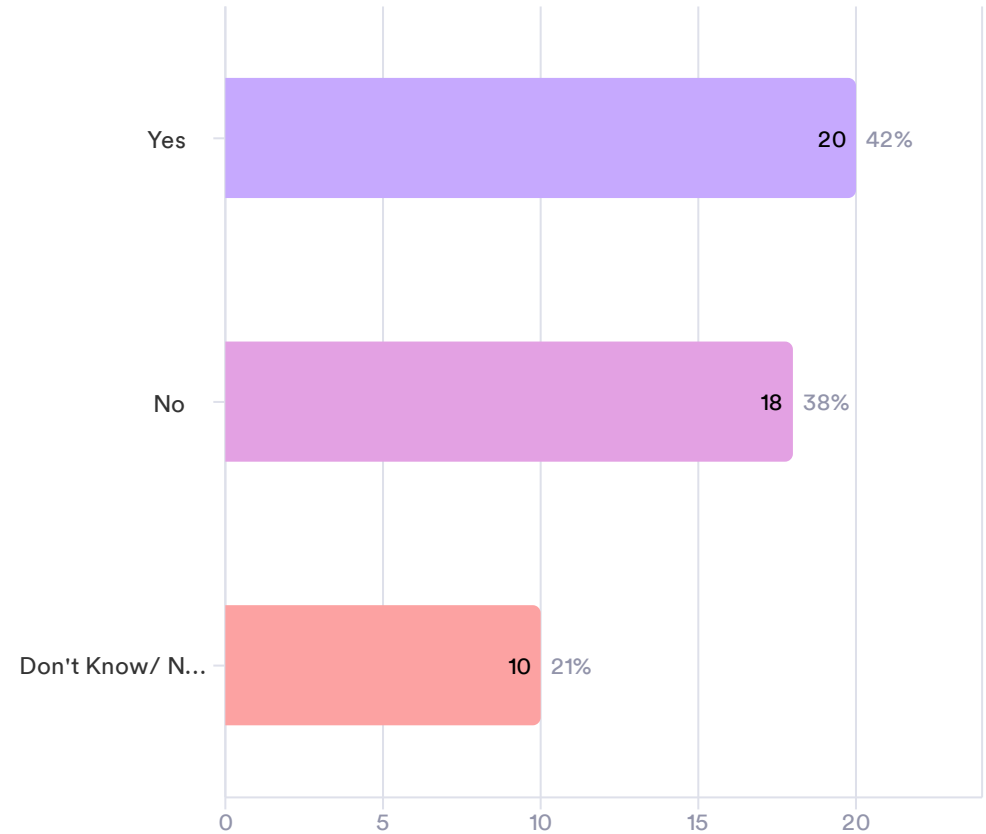
Paying for future capital infrastructure such as roads and sewer needs requires money in reserves to help pay for these projects.

48 Responses



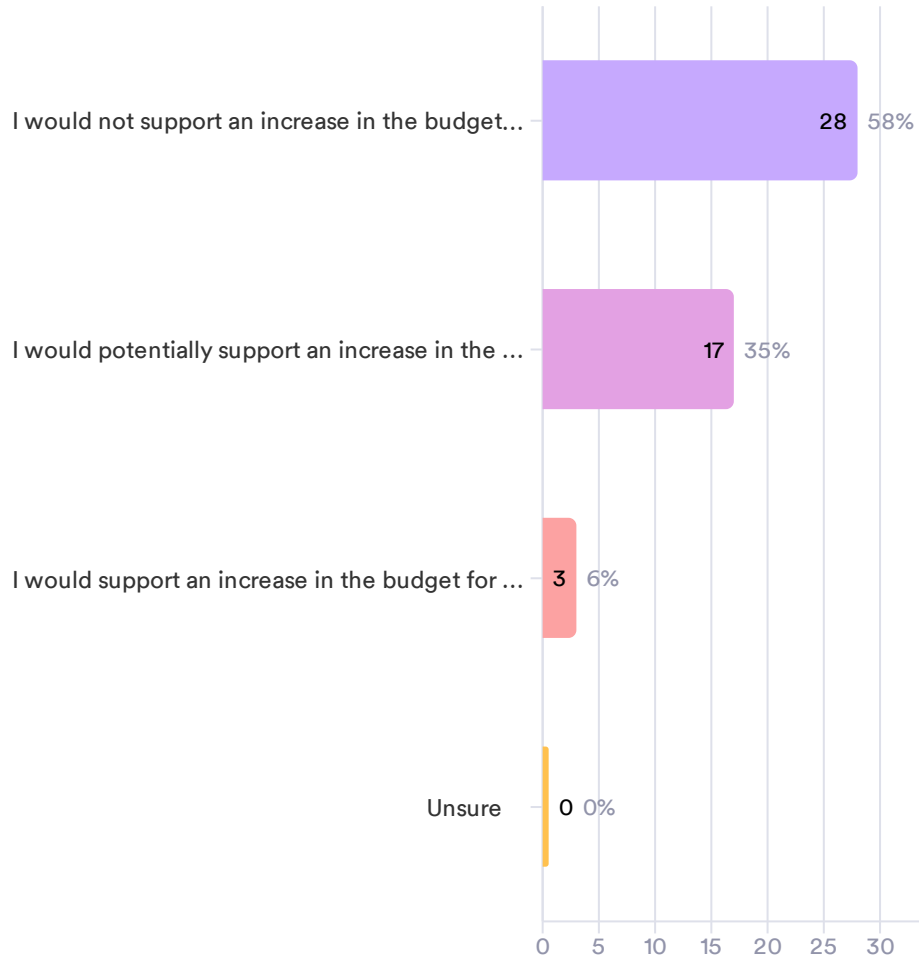
Would you support a tax increase if the new revenue was directed to reserves to pay for future capital infrastructure such as roads, sidewalks and sewer?

48 Responses



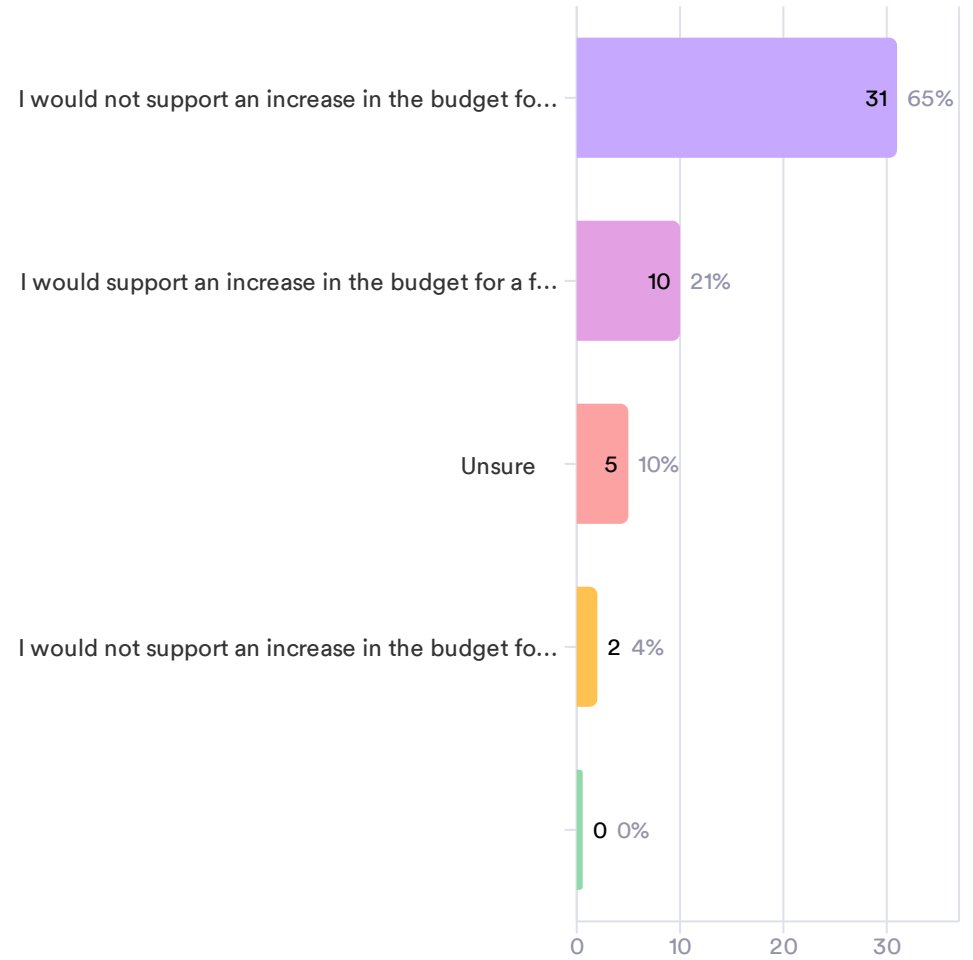
Bylaw and Bylaw Enforcement

48 Responses



Parks and Outdoor Spaces

48 Responses



Services in order of preference

48 responses

1	Sewer and wastewater
2	Roads and sidewalks
3	Stormwater management
4	Fire & police services
5	Economic Development
6	Planning & Development
7	Parks & outdoor spaces
8	Building a green and sustainable community
9	Recreation and programming
10	By-law/bylaw enforcement
11	Diversity, equity & inclusion

Summary of Comments

48 responses

Public Works

- Sewer & Stormwater management is an essential service that needs to be maintained
- Sidewalks & Roads – haven't been maintained for several years and are vital for all visitors and residents. More paving, less patching
- Quality of services and overall beauty and accessibility is slowly crumbling
- Public works department is an invaluable resource but seems disproportionate to the size of the municipality.
- A number of tasks and services that are "nice to have" but Berwick could do without (ie leaf pickup)
- Be smarter with resources & unnecessary spending
- Taxes are too high, too much administration
- Property assessment services to review their process – may lead to a more fair and equitable system
- Happy with the public works department

Community Development

- More transparency on where the money is being spent
- Berwick Fitness Centre is a luxury being subsidized by residents for the benefit of a few
- Donation box at playground and special events to offset costs
- Engage volunteers to accomplish community development & recreation goals
- More marketing to encourage new businesses
- Cut back on Special/social events
- Recreation is an integral part of living in Berwick

General Government

- More transparency
- Limit attendance at conferences to reduce costs
- Reduce the office hours to the public
- Better marketing of the Town to increase business
- Better planning and researching for future success
- Too many town employees
- 50% reduction in the yearly stipend provided to the mayor and town councilors

Additional Comments

- Taxes are too high
- Alternative transportation
- Missed opportunity for not implementing a municipal water system
- Bylaw enforcement brings an unwelcome and unnecessary level of scrutiny
- Review of the CAP program
- An increase of 5% above last year's inflation rate won't fly very high in this town.
- The tax burden is not distributed evenly or fairly - a 2-tiered system
- Not benefiting from the solar panels as much as predicted
- Quality of services is great, however, taxes are too high
- Amalgamation with other town and county services needs to be considered.
- Voyent alert is a good tool to communicate effectively, and it is not being used well
- Would only support tax increases to enhance the infrastructure and safety of the town.