

Your Worship, fellow councilors, and residents in the gallery,

Tonight, as the Chair of Finance, I am pleased to deliver Budget 2024 for the beautiful Town of Pouch Cove.

Through much careful thought, debate, and consideration, we are proud to deliver Budget 2024. I, myself, am proud of all our accomplishments to date and look forward to what 2024 has in store.

We would like to thank every resident in Pouch Cove for continuing to work together in showing their true strength in keeping our community a safe place, to live, work and raise a family.

Budget 2024 is balanced at \$2,992,566.75.

There will be no increases in this year's rates, which continue to make the Town of Pouch Cove one of lowest mill rates on the Northeast Avalon.

General Government:

An investment in our town staff directly reflects the permanent position of a Planning and Infrastructure Coordinator, which will be heavily involved in carrying out the town's Municipal Plan and overseeing the town's capital works projects.

The Town of Pouch Cove has many natural tourist attractions such as the East Coast Trail, the breathtaking views of the ocean and Shoe Cove Beach, to name a few. Therefore, the town will continue with its efforts on a Tourism and Economic Development strategy to attract residents and businesses to our town.

Protective Services:

Council recognizes the valuable services provided by our volunteer fire department in ensuring residents feel safe in their homes. The Town continues to support the Fire Department and this year will aid in adding additional lighting to the new Fire Fighting training center.

Transportation Services:

The Town of Pouch Cove is in great financial shape with one of the lowest debt ratios in the province; therefore, the town will borrow for a mid-size dump truck for the public works fleet which enables a better level of service and efficiency in all operations. Additional funds have also been set aside for 2024 to assist with the Turnaround campaign for side streets.

Environmental Health:

This year has been extra-trying on the Water Treatment Plant and it is essential that the Town continue with repairs to water leaks throughout the town. Therefore, an additional \$80,000 has been allocated to continue with this process.

Planning and Development:

We are happy to announce that this year there is \$60,000 allocated to Community Improvement and Development for community projects, which are to be determined throughout this budget year.

Recreation and Cultural Services:

Summer Camp will take place again in 2024. Summer Camp allows the opportunity for youth to gain employment as well as children to partake in recreational programs, which help build social skills and healthy living. The Town will also be completing a new multipurpose asphalt court, which will provide an opportunity for residents to engage in various sports. In addition, the Town will be completing a trail network in Kirby's Garden. The Town will also continue to seek out and source funding for the trail network around Shoe Cove Pond.

To maintain and build upon our current municipal services, the Capital Works priorities continue to be established and completed as resources allow. It is important to note that these projects are all partially funded by the Town. The priorities for 2024 are the Recreation amenity of the Multipurpose Court, Pumphouse Upgrades and completing the Intake Building for Water Treatment Plant.

Your worship, the town has made excellent progress in fulfilling our vision as a “Community Built for Everyone.”

Budget 2024 continues to maintain and strengthen our core values to:

1. Provide great municipal services with a focus on best practices and cost efficiency;
2. Promote, support, and attract the continued growth and expansion of residential and business development; and
3. Champion a rich and respectful culture of positive citizen engagement, community pride, and volunteer spirit.

With that, your worship, I table the Budget 2024 and make the following Motions:

BE IT SO RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Pouch Cove in accordance with section 77(1) of the Municipalities Act, adopt the 2024 budget with operating revenues and expenditures totaling \$2,992,566.75

BE IT SO RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Pouch Cove adopt the 2024 Fee Structure and Tax rates as Submitted.