

Town of St. George Annual Budget

Fiscal Year 2017



2017 Budget Report

The goal of most communities is to pursue long-term economic and environmental sustainability and resiliency and this would typically be through integrating the consideration of multiple elements including society, ecology, economics, agriculture/aquaculture, transportation, recreation, food and drinking water safety, and climate change. St. George has all of these elements within or in the surrounding region and as such the Town provides a key focal point to local and regional development.

The Vision Statement for the Town of St. George

The Town of St. George is striving to increase its population through proactively pursuing additional housing, employment and retail development opportunities while capitalizing on the small-town feel, character and natural beauty of the Town.

The Budget

The Town has 9 full time employees that take care of the administration and operation of Town functions. There are occasions where casual and summer staff are added to the roster to assist with getting the job done. The Fire Department has a roster of 17 volunteers from St. George, 7 from Bonny River and 3 juniors, including one chief and two deputy chiefs. Policing for the Town is contracted through the RCMP.

The Budget is broken down into a General Operating Fund and A Utility Fund. The categories of the budget are further broken down and a brief summary of each is as follows:

- **General Government Services Include:**

Legislative, General Administrative, Financial Management, Common Services, Other General Administration Services, Other General Government Services and Other General Services.

- **Protective Services Include:**

Police Contractual Agreement, Fire Protection, Emergency Measures and Protective Inspection Building Inspection.

- **Transportation Services Include:**

Common Services and Road Transport.

- **Environmental Health Services Include:**

Solid Waste Collection & Disposal.

- **Public Health & Welfare Services Include:**

Medical Clinics

- **Environmental Development Services Include:**

Environmental Planning & Zoning, Community Development and Tourism

- **Recreation and Culture Service Include:**

Community Centre, Parks & Playgrounds, Other Recreational Services and Libraries

- **Environmental Health Services Include:**

Water Supply and Sewerage Collection & Disposal

- **Fiscal Services Include:**

Debt Charges, Reserves and Capital Funds.

Changes in two typical areas of Revenue

These are challenging times for all levels of government. St. George is a small community with limited resources. Maintaining the same level of services is becoming increasingly difficult with declining revenues from various levels of government.

Property Tax Assessment

2013 - \$125,071,450

2014 - \$129,747,350 – 2.94 % increase

2015 - \$131,577,700 - 1.41 % increase

2016 - \$131,944,300 - 0.28 % increase

2017 - \$133,749,500 - 1.37 % increase

A minimal increase in the overall assessed values of properties is a result of capped assessments and an adjustment of several larger commercial properties and a variety of appeals both residential and commercial/industrial.

Unconditional Grant

2013 - 98,445

2014 - 75,623 – 23.18 % decrease

2015 - 63,654 – 15.83 % decrease

2016 - 97,852 – 53.72% increase

2017 - 99,622 – 1.81 % increase

Other areas of funding

The Town typically uses funding from the Infrastructure Canada Gas Tax Fund along with increased revenues from increases in the tax rate as well as water and sewer rates to partially offset these funds.

The Town also borrowed money from Capital Borrowing Board to move forward with several projects:

Chassis for New Fire Truck	\$ 150,000	Fire Department
2017 Freightliner 3 Ton	\$ 200,000	Transportation Department
South St/Mill Ave/Guard Rail	\$ 325,000	Transportation Department
Water Tower	\$1,000,000	Water Department
Community Centre	\$ 7,000	Recreation

Upcoming projects:

The Town has applied through Clean Water & Wastewater Fund for L'Etete Road Watermain Replacement & New Service Laterals in the amount of \$534,192 and applied through the Small Communities Fund for Installation of new water lines on Carleton and Portage Street from School St. to the lower bridge in the amount of \$474,280. We have not had response yet on whether we will receive funding for either of these projects.

Designated Highway project for the year 2017 will be to finish the curb & gutter and sidewalk on Fundy Bay Drive.

Extracurricular Activities within the Town

The Town and its staff takes pride in their community and beyond the everyday tasks that keeps the Town operational there are other activities that the Council and staff proudly add to their roster of activities of full or in-kind support. The following list is by no means complete:

Summer Banners and Christmas Banners displaying drawings from school children
Granite Town Festival
Blueberry Festival
Setting up for a variety of events
Habitat for Humanity – donated land
Christmas Parade

2016 Projects and Majors Expenditures

Unplanned

The Town attempts to anticipate and plan for a variety of infrastructure expenses. However, there are times when unforeseen events or breakdowns occur and need to be dealt with in order to ensure town services continue. The following list represents unplanned issues that arose during the 2016 Budget Year:

- Water main breaks – 4
- Playground – new equipment, pea gravel, fencing
- Ball Field – Infield drainage
- Bought 2 new fire hydrants
- Bought 2012 Ford F150
- In the process of moving the medical centre from Main Street to the St. George Mall
- Replace the winch for the lift stations
- Significant equipment repairs for works and fire department
- In the process of recruiting a new physician
- Damage to main office and renovations
- Departure of CAO on May 31, 2016
- Phase 1 of Feasibility Study for Wellness Centre.

Planned Work

The Town budgets and plans for a variety of major projects every year. While decisions for proposed work are made during the budget deliberation and approval process, there are items that may not always get addressed due to other costs incurred due to an emergency expense or due to timing of funding applications and approvals.

The below list represents projects that were proposed for 2016 and their status:

- Street Light Poles Replacement - Complete
- Highway Sign Installation - Complete
- Fundy Bay Drive (Provincial Designated Highway) - Complete
- South Street Guardrail - Complete
- Lift Station Upgrades - Complete
- South Street Paving – Complete
- New Tower & Booster Station - Complete

Budget Changes

As a result of the significant costs associated with major infrastructure improvements, Council is **proposing** the following changes to the 2017 Budget:

Water rates

Current \$325.00 proposed change to \$330.00 (1.54% increase)

Sewer Rates

Current \$145.00 proposed change to \$150.00 (3.45% increase)

Tax Rate

Current rate per \$100.00 of assessment \$1.335 (\$1,335 based on \$100,000 home)

Proposed change per \$100.00 of assessment \$1.380 (\$1,380 based on \$100,000 home)

Equivalent to 4.5 cents per \$100 of assessment increase (3.37% increase to current rate)

Police Protection – RCMP Contract

2015 - \$349,264

2016 - \$396,051 – 13.4% increase

2017 - \$418,126 - 5.57% increase

Fire Protection –

Fire (To Local Service Districts) Revenue

2015 - \$ 86,941

2016 - \$110,762 – 27.4% increase

increase

2017 - \$106,339 – 3.99% decrease

increase

Fire Protection Expense

2015 - \$222,800

2016 - \$229,700 – 3.1%

2017 - \$256,800 – 11.8 %

For the year 2016, St. George Fire Department took over operations of Bonny River Fire Department which lead to an increase in LSD contributions which was not reflected in the overall Fire Dept. expense budget for 2016. Also because of second year surplus from 2015, LSD contributions for 2017 were decreased. The 2016 Fire Protection deficit will ensure full compensation from the LSD for the year 2018.

The Bottom Line: Annual Budget

2015 General Fund Budget \$ 2,009,875

2016 General Fund Budget \$ 2,043,434 – 1.67% increase

2017 General Fund Budget \$ 2,153,495 – 5.39% increase

2015 Utility Fund Budget \$ 762,293

2016 Utility Fund Budget \$ 678,580 – 10.98% decrease

2017 Utility Fund Budget \$ 747,499 – 10.156% increase