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## 2026/27 Operating and Capital Budget Highlights

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 22,2026

OXFORD, Nova Scotia –Town Council approved the General Operating Budget of \$4,030,910, the Water Operating Budget for \$941,414 and the Capital Budget for \$2,188,905.

**Residential rate** increases to \$1.89/\$100 of property assessment  
**Commercial rate** increases to \$4.52/\$100 of property assessment  
**Resource rate** increases to \$1.89/\$/\$100 of property assessment  
**Forest rate** (under 50,000 acres) remains unchanged at \$0.25/acre  
**Deed Transfer Tax rate** remains at 1.5%  
**Sewer Rates** (of which there are 26 different rates according to our bylaw) remains the same as the prior year

**Residential taxable property value** has increased on average by 8%,  
**Commercial taxable property value** has increased by 22 % (see note)  
Note: 21% of this increase in revenue, \$304,565, is due to the valuation of the new community center. In 2021, the town granted the community center tax exemption for 25 years, therefore this same amount will also show as an expense. This makes the revenue gained through commercial property valuation increase 1%.  
**Resource property value** has increased by 31%

Reflected in the table below, the tax revenue for 2026/27 has an overall increase of 10% for a total of \$271,462 to be applied to operations.

	2025/26	2026/27
Residential Revenue	1,195,756	1,358,686
Commercial Revenue	1,382,719	1,778,520
Resource Property Revenue	27,631	38,318
Forest (under 50,000 acres)	174	174
New build rebates and Debt Relief	-88,626	-386,286
Sewer	208,241	207,946
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,725,896</b>	<b>2,997,358</b>





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The approved budgets considered service levels, staffing, programming, tax rates and reserves for future capital projects. The town aims to maintain the current service levels however the costs to operate have increased substantially, leaving no room for extras or requests. As well the mandated costs (RCMP, School Board and Property Valuation Services) have increase by 8%.

It was difficult for the Council to increase the rate but is necessary to have a sustainable budget and maintain the current level of service. Council approved a tax rate increase of 5.5% for residential, commercial and resource assessment classifications. The last tax rate increase was in 2022/23.

General Administration will have new auditors as the five term with BakerTilly had expired. The lowest bid was awarded to Doane Grant Thorton. Audit fees and supplementary accounting fees have increased.

The Fire Department was awarded a \$30,000 grant to supplements EMO services; this will enhance our emergency services.

The Town expects a deficit of \$70,000 in the Water Operating budget for the 2025/26year. The deficit is mainly due to a 25% decrease in consumption from our largest water customer affecting the anticipated revenues.

The Town plans to issue a request for proposal to replace all meters in the town to a system with water leak detection and automated reads. As a metered town we are expected replace meters past there useful life. Replacement of all meters should improve consumption and be more efficient.

The Town received funding of \$636,422.19 from provincial government through the GRID (Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development) program. This funding covers 50% of the cost for design plans for the **Service Renewal to Support Community Growth Project**. This project will bring water across the highway, in anticipation of more housing and commercial development. Also included in this project is the replacement of aged water, sewer and storm mains and pavement for Main Street, Pugwash Road and the replacement of the reservoir on Pugwash Road.

New development is taking place, such as apartment buildings, housing, and major plans for across the highway. Looking ahead, this will generate more tax dollars and properties to share the costs associated with operating the town.

