

As the Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee, I am proud to present the 2021 Budget for the Town of Portugal Cove – St. Philip’s. As a Council, we are very proud to be presenting this as our last budget before next year’s election. Over the last four years we have had to deal with many challenges, none more serious than over the last year. Despite these challenges, we have been unwavering in our vision to provide quality services and programs to our community, while being fiscally responsible and accountable. We have reduced expenditures every year since our election, resulting in a \$2,166,045 reduction in expenditures for this year’s budget compared to that of 2017. We have reduced residential and business taxes with the average property tax now \$277 lower than before our election. At a time of such uncertainty in the world and the impact it is having on our residents and businesses, these reductions are more important than ever. We have been able to accomplish these reductions while enhancing our recreation programs, improving services and facilities, supporting our local community groups and investing in strategic infrastructure projects. We have governed in a collaborative way, listening to our residents and business community, and this budget is a reflection of that commitment. We would like to thank all those who provided input this year and all those who worked with us over the last four years to achieve the results that we have, despite these unprecedented times. We are hopeful for a return to normal next year and look forward to finishing our term with great momentum and community spirit.

Therefore, we recommend the following motions:

(a) 2021 Budget

The Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip’s approve and adopt the attached 2021 Budget with Revenues and Expenditures totaling \$13,213,508

(b) 2021 Tax Rates

The Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip’s approve and adopt the following Tax Rates for 2021 taxation year:

Property Tax:

Residential and Commercial Property Tax – 6.5 mils with a minimum tax of \$20.00

Business Tax– Based on Assessment:

Rates as follows with a minimum tax of \$200.00

- General Business Tax – 8.1 mils
- Farms – 1.5 mils
- Daycare and Bed & Breakfasts – 5.1 mils
- Golf Courses – 8.1 mils
- Nursing & Retirement Homes – 8.1 mils
- Non – Profit Organizations – 8.1 mils
- Professional Services – 12.1 mils
- Medical/Dental/Pharmacy – 12.1 mils
- Bank/Financial Institutions – 45 mils

Business Tax – Based on Revenue: Rates as follows with a minimum tax of \$200.00

No Fixed Place of Business – 1 % of Gross Annual Revenue

Home Based - 0.6 % of Gross Annual Revenue

Utilities and Cable Television Tax:

2.5 % of Gross Revenue as per Taxation of Utilities and Cable Televisions Companies Act.

Water and Sewer Tax:

- Residential Water and Sewer - \$625.00 yearly per unit (\$450.00 for Water only, \$175.00 for Sewer only)
- Commercial Water and Sewer - \$715.00 yearly per unit (\$480.00 for Water only, \$235.00 for Sewer only)
- Vacant Land Water and Sewer - \$425.00 yearly per unit (\$250.00 for Water only, \$175.00 for Sewer only)
- Fish Plant Water and Sewer - \$150.00 per month
- Ferry Water Fill up - \$975 per month

(c) Interest

The Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's approve the rate of 1 % per month simple interest to be charged on all outstanding accounts on the unpaid balance at the end of each month commencing January 2021.

(d) Early Payment Discount:

The Town of Portugal Cove – St. Philip's grant a 5 % discount on the property tax portion only of the tax invoice if payment of all debts, current and prior including water and/or sewer and storm sewer fees (any and all charges or otherwise) is received and paid in full by the discount date of April 1, 2021. Exception as follows: In the case of payments from mortgage companies and other financial institutions (electronic or otherwise) the payment must be received by the discount date of March 15, 2021 to allow for processing. Furthermore, there will be NO 5% early payment discount for payments made by credit card.

(e) Other Discount:

The Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's grant a 20 % discount on the Property Tax portion of the invoice to Residential Property owners in receipt of the GIS (Guaranteed Income Supplement) for their principle place of residence only in the Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's (this discount does not apply to any vacant lands or summer residences). Completion of a mandatory application is required in order to receive this discount and the calculation for the 20 % reduction will be applied prior to the 5 % early payment discount (if applicable) or when calculating payment plans. Property owners who qualify for this option may avail of any of the payment plans. Furthermore, there will be NO 5% early payment discount for payments made by credit card.

(f) Payment Options:

The Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's provide the following payment options:

- i.) Payment in full by discount date of April 1, 2021 (with the above noted provisions)
- ii.) Interest free (NO early payment discount for this option) a choice of either 6 equal monthly Payments (January to June inclusive) or 8 equal monthly payments (January to August inclusive) for the full balance or 12 equal monthly payments by Pre-Authorized Debit from your bank/financial institution (January to December) Returned cheques/payments will cancel this interest free option and interest will be reinstated retroactively.
- iii.) Cash, Debit, Visa, MasterCard, Telephone and Online banking are also available.

(g) Tax Structure and Schedule of Fees:

The Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's approve and adopt the attached 2021 Tax Structure and Schedule of Fees to take effect January 1, 2021 and to be advertised accordingly.