

2013 BUDGET PRESENTATION

BUDGET SPEECH

In my capacity as the Chair of the Administration and Finance committee, I am pleased to present the 2013 Budget for the Town of Portugal Cove – St. Philips.

The total projected revenue for 2013 is \$12,866,080 which includes transfers from the province relating to infrastructure funding and cost shared debt. If we exclude the Provinces' share the total projected budget is \$8,029,679.

As was the case for fiscal 2012 this budget continues on the path to offer services and infrastructure necessary to fulfill the demands of an ever expanding resident base. The town plans to continue its spend in areas of Recreation, Lifestyle, Protective Services and Economic Development as well as expanding our capability to continue to provide the expected basic services and infrastructure maintenance.

Continuing from our 2012 initiative we now have established a department focused on Economic Development, Marketing and Communications with the intention of attracting additional residents and business to further expand our tax base. This is a longer term focus with the 'intention' benefits expected to be recognized in future years.

Our long awaited foray into the world of recycling has finally begun and budget 2013 allows for that to continue and expand as we as a community become more environmentally conscious. Significant effort has also been expended on working towards the construction of a "Lifestyle Center" and while the reality may be a little ways off, we are keeping the effort forefront in our activity and planning.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

1. Residential Property Tax :

The Residential property tax mil rate set at 8.5 mils in 2012 will be reduced to 7 mils for the coming year with all other tax rates adjusted proportionately and listed in our Municipal Tax Structure and Schedule of Fees.

There will be no change to the minimum tax rate of \$20.

While we recognize that assessments have risen significantly we also provide the option for residents to avail of an interest free payment plan allowing payments to be made over a period of up to 8 months from the start of the year.

2. The town is pleased to continue to offer Residents a 5% discount off their property tax bill if the bill is paid by March 31, 2013.

3. We are also pleased to continue the 20% discount to the property owners in the Town who are in receipt of the Guaranteed Income Supplement. This discount coupled with the early payment discount previously noted could provide a total compounded discount of 27%.

4. The Town of Portugal Cove – St. Philip’s will once again be making considerable Investment in capital projects to ensure the town provides up to date services with modern equipment. Our overall Capital Program for 2013 amounts to \$8,555,116 with \$4,162,078 coming from Federal and Provincial Governments, \$1,277,230 from Revenue and \$3,115,808 provided through financing. Some of the major expenditures are listed below:

• Voisey’s Brook Park	\$2,552,934
• Thorburn Road – Rainbow Gully	\$1,045,427
• Hardings Hill and Bridge	\$ 995,432
• Jenny Lynn Storm Sewer	\$ 769,518
• 2012 Capital works – carryover	\$ 750,000
• Lights at Rainbow Gully	\$ 500,000
• Park equipment (from Reserve)	\$ 154,100
• Recycling Sideloader	\$ 200,000
• Backhoe	\$ 150,000
• Rainbow Gully Road and Parking Lot	\$ 220,000
• New Pumper Truck (town portion)	\$ 75,000

5. We need to note that some of the projects listed have commenced or were previously approved in 2012 and will continue into 2013. The Jenny Lynn Storm Sewer system will cost \$1,470,070 in total with approximately half of the cost incurred in 2012. Also , the 2012 Capital Works program was delayed while we grappled with a client Services agreement through the Department of Municipal Affairs.
6. Our commitment to protecting our residents remains a priority and we will continue our contract with the St. John's Regional Fire Department to ensure we have emergency response backup appropriate for our citizens and growing community requirements. This commitment will continue for the 2013 fiscal year at a cost of \$45,000.

The budget also contains \$228,800 worth of capital expenditures to enhance protective service operations and as was the case last year funds have been earmarked for additional training necessary to ensure our dedicated firefighters remain current with modern rescue and firefighting techniques.

Also, the recent announcement by the Minister Of Municipal Affairs confirms that we will be acquiring a new Pumper Truck to service our Towns needs. This unit will cost close to \$250,000 with our portion being \$75,000

We appreciate the support of our residents as we strive to provide a first class service.

Detailed information on revenues and expenditures as well as the complete budget speech will be provided on the Town's web site for the information of residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Moses Tucker

Chair, Finance Committee

